

Chapter 12: Tausend Gründe für Berlin

A wie Anfang (p. 170)

Ayla's online magazine *Blick auf Berlin* wants to know which newspaper articles interest the readers. What interests you: list the articles from 1 to 10. Compare your list with that of your partner. Explain why some articles interest you and some don't.

Jetzt geht's los!

In chapter 12

In this chapter you will learn:

- to talk about travelling
- to write about your travel experiences
- more about Berlin
- the imperfect tense of the regular and irregular verbs

Sprechen wir mal! (p. 173)

Making suggestions

Reisen Sie gerne? Warum (nicht)?

Do you like to travel? Why (not)?

Wo waren Sie das letzte Mal?

What place did you visit most recently?

Was hat Ihnen dort am besten gefallen?

What did you like the most there?

Letzten Sommer besuchte ich Berlin, weil ich die Stadt interessant finde.

Last summer I visited Berlin, because I find the city interesting.

Ich interessiere mich für die Geschichte / die Kultur der Stadt.

I am interested in the city's history / cultural attractions.

Als ich in Berlin war, besuchte ich ...

When I was in Berlin, I went to see...

Ich fand die Menschen / das Essen / die Museen am interessantesten.

I found the people / the food / the museums most interesting.

Talk with your partner about travelling. What place did you visit most recently? What did you like? Have you ever been to Berlin or somewhere else in Germany / Austria / Switzerland? Where would you like to visit?

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1. Read the clues and fill in the missing words in the crossword puzzle.

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2. How are the following phrases expressed in the unit text?

3. Explain what happens in the chapter using the given words.

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4. a) Form the genitive using the given words.

b) Write 3 sentences using the expressions in 4a.

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5. Fill in the articles.

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Grammar

The imperfect tense of regular verbs

The perfect is the most common past tense used in spoken German. The imperfect is used more often in written texts such as newspapers and magazines.

Read the unit text again and fill in the missing verb in the imperfect tense.

Letztes Jahr _____ über 13 Millionen Menschen nach Berlin.
 Das Abendessen _____ besser als in allen anderen Restaurants.
 Ich _____ mich schon immer für Geschichte.

- The imperfect tense is formed using the _____ ending, or _____, if this form is difficult to pronounce.
- Add the imperfect ending to the stem form of the verb.
- The imperfect forms of the 1st and 3rd person are identical.
- Add the appropriate endings to all other conjugated forms.

- Add the letter ‘e’, if the stem form ends in ‘t’ or ‘d.’ (du arbeitest, ihr redet)

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Find the following phrase in the unit text.

When I visited Teufelsberg for the first time

- When you are describing something that happened for the first time in the past, the word for “when” is _____.
- This forms a subordinate clause and the verb goes _____ (where in the sentence?) _____
- In all other sentences the word for “when” is “wenn”, e.g. you are describing an action that occurs repeatedly in the past.

The imperfect tense of irregular verbs

Complete the following sentences. The unit text will help you.

- You will have to learn the imperfect forms of irregular verbs by heart.
- The imperfect forms of irregular verbs take the usual endings, except for the singular 1st and 3rd person forms, which are identical.

Fill in the missing imperfect verb verbs.

To express the past tense of the verbs “sein” and “haben” as well as the modal auxiliaries, the imperfect (and not the perfect tense) is normally used in spoken German.

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6. Help Ayla. Tell her what the tourists you have been chatting with have been doing in Berlin. Use the imperfect tense.

7. Fill in the given verbs in imperfect tense.

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8. Form sentences in the imperfect tense using the given words.

9. Fill in wenn or als.

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10. a) Write a short description of a place you have visited recently. What did you see? When did you go? What did you do? How did you like it?

b) Tell your partner about your trip. Use the perfect tense.

11. Have this discussion with your partner. Choose a role and cover the other part. Read out the sentence in bold in German. Your partner will help you if needed.

A	B
Where do you plan to travel in summer?	Wohin willst du im Sommer reisen?
Nach Berlin.	To Berlin.
But you have visited Berlin so often.	Aber du hast ja Berlin schon so oft besucht.

Ja, aber es gibt tausend Gründe, nach Berlin zu reisen.	Yes, but there are thousands of reasons to travel to Berlin.
What interest you there?	Was findest du so interessant dort? / Was ist deiner Meinung nach so interessant dort?
Ich interessiere mich für die Geschichte der Stadt.	I am interested in the history of the city.
What did you see there last time?	Was hast du das letzte Mal dort gesehen?
Als ich letzten Sommer dort war, habe ich viele neue Plätze / Ecken kennen gelernt.	When I was there last summer, I got to know many new places.
What did you like most?	Was hat dir am besten gefallen?
Die Geschichten über den Alltag in der NS-Zeit waren interessant.	The stories about everyday life during the Nazi period were interesting-
Did you visit the Parliament House?	Hast du den Reichstag besucht?
Nein, ich will immer etwas Neues erleben / sehen.	No, I always want to see / experience something new.

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12. Ayla Özil is interviewing someone who works at a travel agency in Berlin. Listen to the interview twice and choose whether the following are true or false.

1. In summer Berlin offers something for everyone.
2. Bus number 100 is a tourist bus.
3. Berlin's Museumsinsel (museum island) is Germany's most popular island.
4. There you can learn about history dating back thousands of years.
5. There are 60 000 hectares of forest in Berlin.
6. A lot of people are interested in old hospitals, factories and barracks.

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13. Berlin Quiz. What do you know about Berlin? Test your knowledge in pairs or small groups.

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Self-assessment

Chapters 10-12

Evaluate your own learning and progress.

Can you...

- talk about sports
- talk about working life
- talk about your travels
- write about your travelling experiences
- use the imperative
- use the nominative, accusative, dative and genitive forms
- use the imperfect tense of regular and irregular verbs

If you replied “Yes, I can”;

6-7 times:

Congratulations! You have an excellent command of German basics!

4-5 times:

Good work! You are right on track, but a little revision wouldn't hurt.

0-3 times

Now it's time to go back and hit the books. You need to recap the basics.