

## Guidelines for Writing Projects

The first of your writing projects is [due on day 10](#) of our class. Here you will find the instructions and topic for the written paragraph assignment.

First, here are some **important guidelines** for all German writing assignments:

- 1) Please [write in your own words](#). The topics are designed to practice exactly what we are learning in the textbook, and the textbook and our online exercises should be your primary reference aid. You [may not use Google Translate](#) or any other translation software: the purpose of these assignments is to show that you can use the **material we are learning** in class to express your own ideas and thoughts. It is fine to look up **a single word** or two in any dictionary (Google included, single words), but [do not translate entire sentences](#). Using Google or any other translation program will not only result in a **poor grade (it is considered plagiarism and a violation of academic integrity)**, but it is NOT an effective way of communicating or learning the German language, as **Google translations are notoriously bad** and do not reflect how actual Germans talk. Please use the textbook and our own class handouts and materials as your references, not the (often incorrect) uninformed internet or Google. If in doubt, don't hesitate to ask your instructor for small assistance, or visit the Language Coach in the Language Resource Center on campus.
- 2) Please [do not ask your German-speaking friends](#) or relatives to correct your work. Believe me, you can write all that is needed for each writing project easily, given the structures and vocabulary we have learned in class, and **you will learn far better through trial-and-error** and struggling to compose your ideas than just copying what a friend tells you. Although you are graded on the accuracy of your work, [you will not be penalized for mistakes that you could not have known](#) about if we have not yet learned them. In addition, if your German-speaking friends use advanced constructions, you will not be learning and practicing what we need to learn first, which is the **basic building blocks and baby steps to master a new language in all its complexity**.
- 3) Your writing projects [must be typed](#), not hand-written. Part of learning a new language is becoming comfortable with technology: it is expected that you will learn to [include typed umlauts](#) (ä, ö, ü and ß), so you should learn how to type those on your computer. We will discuss typing umlauts in class, and there are links for assistance on our course webpage, if you need help. Also remember to [capitalize all nouns](#)! For your instructor's ease of grading, please [double-space](#) your typed paragraph. Take your time and please **proofread** your work. **Spelling does count**, so if you wish to turn on spell-checking in German in your word-processing application, please do so!
- 4) From time to time, you will be asked to **give personal information** and details in your written assignments. Please feel free to ['invent' or 'lie' about yourself if you wish](#) — in no way do we wish to endanger your privacy, but we need to be able to talk about personal topics in German, which requires practice. If you ever feel hesitant about sharing information, simply **make up an alternative persona** or create details out of your imagination: there's no requirement to be truthful, only to practice your German!

The above guidelines will be in force for ALL of the writing assignments this semester!

Because we've now learned to talk about [events in the PAST TENSE](#) using the *"Perfekt"* verb forms, the main focus of this writing assignment will be to [describe a recent weekend of yours in detail](#). **See the questions you will need to answer on the next page.**

## Schreibprojekt für Kapitel 5: Letztes Wochenende

For your writing project this chapter, please write approximately 12-15 sentences in a cohesive paragraph, describing what you did last weekend (or any very recent weekend). You should be very specific, and go into detail about the times, activities, and things that happened over 2-3 days. It is perfectly **acceptable if you had a boring, normal weekend** — the purpose here is to describe your day(s) in detail, not provide an exciting story! You should answer some or many of the following questions, but please fill in the details according to your personal situation, as I can't anticipate everything you might have done!

- **An welchem Tag hat Ihr Wochenende angefangen: am Freitag? am Samstag? am Sonntag?**  
*(On which day did your weekend start?)*
- **Wann sind Sie aufgestanden?**  
*(When did you get up?)*
- **Was haben Sie zum Frühstück gegessen?**  
*(What did you eat for breakfast?)*
- **Haben Sie gearbeitet? Was haben Sie bei der Arbeit gemacht?**  
*(Did you work? What did you do at work?)*
- **Haben Sie Unterricht oder Schule gehabt? Wann haben die Kurse angefangen?**  
*(Did you have class or school? When did the classes start?)*
- **Haben Sie Sport gemacht? Haben Sie etwas für die Gesundheit gemacht?**  
*(Did you do any sports? Did you do anything for your health?)*
- **Sind Sie irgendwohin gereist oder gefahren? Mit dem Auto oder mit dem Fahrrad?**  
*(Did you travel or drive anywhere? By car or by bike?)*
- **Was haben Sie zu Mittag gegessen?**  
*(What did you eat for lunch?)*
- **Was haben Sie am Nachmittag gemacht?**  
*(What did you do in the afternoon?)*
- **Haben Sie jemanden angerufen, oder haben Sie mit Ihrer Familie gesprochen?**  
*(Did you call anyone, or did you speak to your family?)*
- **Mit wem sind Sie zusammen gewesen?**  
*(Who were you with?)*
- **Was haben Sie zu Abend gegessen? Sind Sie ins Restaurant gegangen?**  
*(What did you eat for dinner? Did you go to a restaurant?)*
- **Haben Sie ferngesehen oder einen Film gesehen?**  
*(Did you watch tv or a movie?)*
- **Wann sind Sie ins Bett gegangen / wann sind Sie eingeschlafen?**  
*(When did you go to bed / when did you fall asleep?)*
- **Was haben Sie am nächsten Tag gemacht?**  
*(What did you do the next day?)*
- **Ist es insgesamt ein gutes oder ein schlechtes Wochenende gewesen?**  
*(Was it overall a good or bad weekend?)*

To get full credit for this assignment, you must write primarily in the past tense using forms such as *“ich bin aufgestanden”* and *“ich habe gegessen”* in the Perfekt tense.

Please be aware: **if you type your sentences in English into Google Translate, it will not give you the “Perfekt” tense verb forms!** Google defaults to a **different tense entirely** and you will have a mangled paragraph if you use Google for verb structures. If you need to look up the **past tenses of the verbs** you are using, please use the Verbix website at <http://www.verbix.com/languages/german.html> where you can enter an infinitive (*“gehen”* for example) and find the **Perfect** form *“ich bin gegangen”* quite easily.

You may wish to **use a few of the following “linking” words**. Be aware that they are all **time elements**, so if you start with “dann”, then your **verb will be in second position** as in any normal sentence:

**“Dann habe ich meinen Freund angerufen.”**

**zuerst = first off, firstly      dann = then      danach = after that, afterwards      endlich = finally**

Please make sure to **type** your writing project, and remember to **double-space** for much easier corrections! You can either bring a **printed paper copy** to class on Day 10, or you can **submit the assignment as a file upload** to our course webpage if you prefer not to print at home.

Below is an **example of what you could write**. Feel free to use similar formulations in your own writing, but you must **change the details** to fit your own situation!

### Mein Wochenende

Letztes Wochenende war ein langweiliges Wochenende für mich, aber ich habe ziemlich viel gearbeitet und ich habe auch genug Zeit für Entspannung gehabt. Mein Wochenende hat am Freitag angefangen, denn ich habe am Freitag keinen Unterricht gehabt. Trotzdem habe ich gearbeitet: ich habe ein paar neue Arbeitsblätter geschrieben, und ein Video für die Klasse gemacht. Zum Abendessen am Freitagabend habe ich Gemüse und Fleisch gegessen, und Milch getrunken. Am Freitagabend habe ich ziemlich viel ferngesehen: mein Mann und ich haben die Fernsehserie Gotham angeschaut, dann haben wir bei Netflix ein paar alte Folgen von Star Trek gesehen. Ich bin am Freitag um 23 Uhr ins Bett gegangen.

Am Samstag bin ich um 9 Uhr aufgestanden, und ich habe sofort meine Katze gefüttert: sie hat morgens immer Hunger und sie lässt mich nicht lange schlafen! Ich habe gefrühstückt, dann habe ich wieder am Computer gearbeitet. Nach dem Mittagessen sind mein Mann und ich einkaufen gegangen: wir sind mit dem Auto zu Ralphs gefahren und wir haben die Lebensmittel für die Woche gekauft. Zum Abendessen haben wir eine Pizza bestellt, denn wir kochen nicht gern. Ich habe auch meine Mutter angerufen und wir haben lange gesprochen. Mein Mann hat am Abend Videospiele gespielt, aber ich habe ein Buch gelesen — auf Deutsch natürlich, denn ich brauche die Übung.

Am Sonntag habe ich das Haus aufgeräumt. Das mache ich fast jeden Sonntag, denn an Werktagen habe ich nicht viel Zeit. Inzwischen habe ich weiter für meine Kurse gearbeitet und habe viele Aufgaben korrigiert. Ich bin um Mitternacht eingeschlafen, und so war mein Wochenende vorbei. Das Wochenende war zu kurz!

**Please see the grading rubric on the next page.**

### Grading Rubric for Schreibprojekt 5

Element	Criteria	Score
<b>Content</b>	Length is a <b>minimum of 12 full sentences</b> . Most of the questions are answered with <b>details</b> about the weekend activities. Meaning is <b>clear</b> .	____ out of 18
<b>Vocabulary</b>	Student uses a variety of <b>vocabulary and idioms as learned in class</b> . Stock phrases are used correctly and/or adapted clearly. Student adds vocabulary elements to build personalized content. <b>Computer translations are avoided!</b>	____ out of 12
<b>Past Tense (das Perfekt)</b>	Student uses <b>at least EIGHT DIFFERENT VERBS</b> in the <b>PAST TENSE (das Perfekt)</b> , with the proper choice of <b>helping verb</b> ("ich bin/ich habe"). Participles are correct, and placement follows the proper rules.	____ out of 24
<b>Other Verbs</b>	General <b>subject-verb agreement</b> is correct. Any present-tense forms are conjugated correctly.	____ out of 8
<b>Word Order</b>	Student follows <b>word-order rules</b> correctly. Time elements at the beginning correctly place the <b>verb as second element</b> . <b>Time-manner-place</b> elements are in their proper order.	____ out of 14
<b>Case and Endings</b>	Student uses <b>nominative, accusative and dative objects</b> with their correct endings, as well as <b>adjective endings</b> when needed. <b>Prepositions</b> are used with the proper cases. Gender mistakes are few.	____ out of 10
<b>Style</b>	Paragraph is well-constructed and <b>organized</b> . Sentences show some <b>individuality</b> and <b>complexity</b> , using conjunctions and word order to add variety.	____ out of 6
<b>Mechanics and Spelling</b>	All content is correctly <b>spelled</b> . Nouns are <b>capitalized</b> . <b>Umlauts</b> are correctly placed. Essay is <b>typed</b> .	____ out of 8
<b>Total</b>	Total of All Criteria: <b>(final score is percent out of 100 points total)</b>	____ <b>out of 100</b>