German

Talk about wants vs responsibilities

Further practice using the modal verb "sollen" with other modal verbs

Downloadable Resource



aufhören	to stop,cease
ausgehen	to go out
verlassen	to leave
plaudern	to chat
sitzenbleiben	to repeat a year in school
schwänzen	to play truant
anfangen	to begin, start
bestehen	to pass (exam)
durchfallen	to fail
schaffen	to manage





dürfen = to be allowed to. It is a modal verb and therefore is usually used with another verb in the infinitive. You may remember this verb from previous units! Irregular!

ich	darf	I am allowed to
du	darfst	you are allowed to
er/sie/es/man	darf	he/she/it/one is allowed to

Remember the conjugations for wir(we), sie(they) and Sie (you) are all the same!

wir	dürfen	we are allowed to
sie	dürfen	they are allowed to
Sie	dürfen	you are allowed to



You may also remember wollen = to want to. It is a modal verb and therefore is usually used with another verb in the infinitive.

ich	will	I want
du	willst	you want
er/sie/es/man	will	he/she/it/one wants

Remember the conjugations for wir(we), sie(they) and Sie (you) are all the same!

wir	wollen	we want
sie	wollen	they want
Sie	wollen	you want



And here is a reminder of the verb sollen = to be supposed to. This verb was introduced in the previous lesson

ich	soll	I am supposed to
du	sollst	you are supposed to
er/sie/es/man	soll	he/she/it/one is supposed to

The conjugations for wir (we), sie(they) and Sie (you) are all the same!

wir	sollen	we are supposed to
sie	sollen	they are supposed to
Sie	sollen	you are supposed to



Remember, you have to be careful with translating the verb sollen

Ich <u>soll</u> meine Hausaufgaben machen = *I am supposed to* do my homework

You could also translate this as "I should do my homework"

BUT



ich soll, du sollst etc is only translated as "should" when it means someone has told you to do it - similar to ich muss



Also don't forget....!!!





I don't have to = Ich muss nicht





Summary of learning

It is important not to confuse the meanings of the modal verbs sollen, müssen, können, dürfen and wollen

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ich soll = I am supposed to, I am to, I should(you have been told to))
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ich muss = | I must, I have to
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ich kann = I am able to, I can (have the capability)

ich darf = I am allowed to, I may, I can (have permission)

ich will = | I want to

