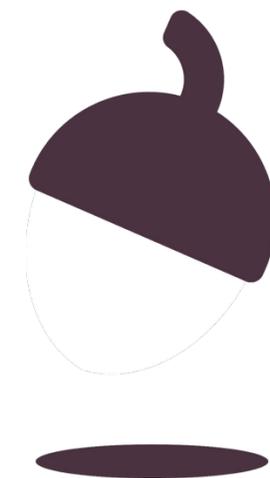


German

Talk about wants vs responsibilities
- Using the modal verb "sollen"

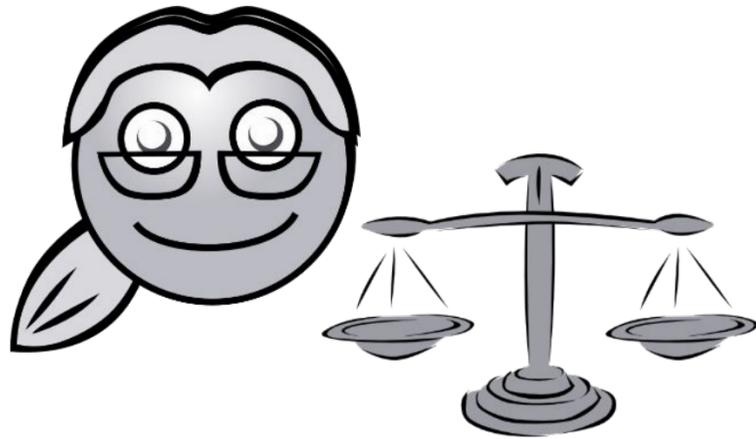
Downloadable Resource

Herr Scales



OAK
NATIONAL
ACADEMY

Gesetz



reisen



S

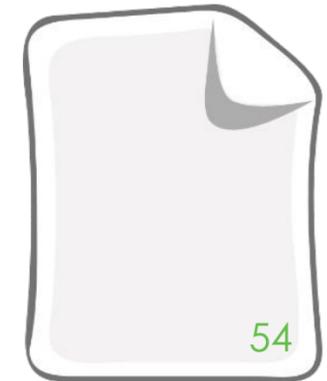


sollen

langsam



Seite



Satz

Subjekt Verb Objekt
↓ ↓ ↓
Ich habe Hunger.

Los!



Haus



S



mies



aus



damals



1919

2019

teilnehmen	<i>to take part</i>
sich konzentrieren	<i>to concentrate</i>
gut zuhören	<i>to listen well</i>
aufpassen	<i>to pay attention</i>
aufstehen	<i>to get up</i>
putzen	<i>to clean</i>
sich kümmern um	<i>to look after</i>
eine Rede halten	<i>to give a speech</i>
die Notiz (en)	<i>the note</i>
die Note(n)	<i>the mark,grade</i>



können = to be able 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	kann	I can
du	kannst	you can
er/sie/es/man	kann	he/she/it/one can

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

wir	können	we can
sie	könnt	they can
Sie	können	you can



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

ich	muss	I must
du	musst	you must
er/sie/es/man	muss	he/she/it/one must

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

wir	müssen	we must
sie	müsst	they must
Sie	müssen	you must



Another useful modal verb is sollen = to be supposed to. Like the others, it is irregular and needs to be learnt by heart!

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

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

wir	sollen	we were supposed to
sie	sollt	they were supposed to
Sie	sollen	you were supposed to



Here is an example:

Ich soll 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



Füll die Lücken aus!

1. *My little sister is supposed to listen carefully*

Meine kleine Schwester soll gut zuhören

2. *I am supposed to concentrate*

Ich soll mich konzentrieren

3. *My parents are supposed to look after us*

Meine Eltern sollen sich um uns kümmern

4. *What are we supposed to do?*

Was sollen wir tun?

5. *Mr. Smith? Mrs Müller called. You are supposed to go now!*

Herr Schmidt? Frau Müller hat angerufen. Sie sollen jetzt gehen!



Summary of learning

In German, the verb "sollen" is a modal verb and means "to be supposed to"

Eg I am supposed to go home now = ich soll jetzt nach Hause gehen

You are supposed to do your homework = du sollst deine Hausaufgaben machen

*Consequently, you can sometimes translate the present tense of "sollen" as "should", but only when it means you have definitely been told to do it!
Therefore "ich soll" and "ich muss" are virtually the same!*

