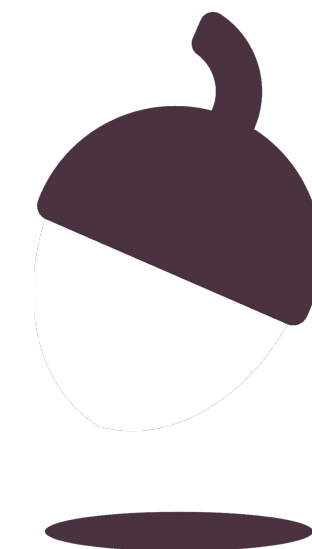


German

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

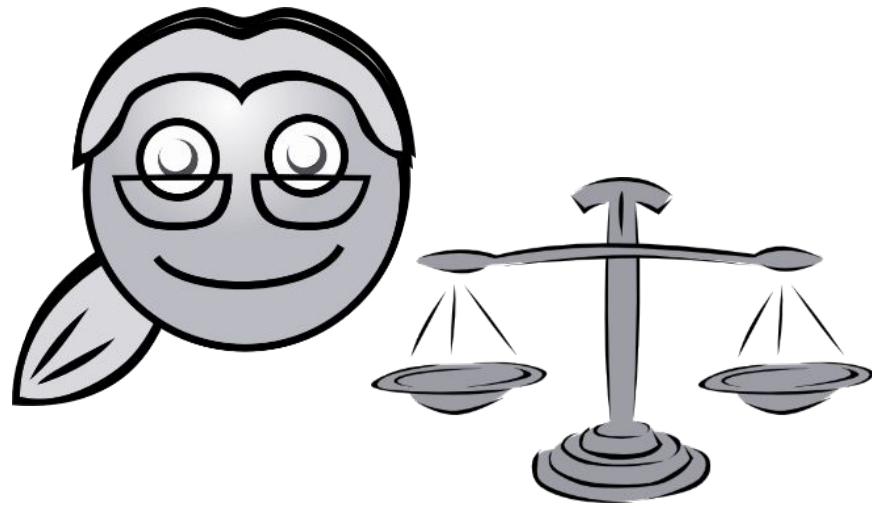
Downloadable Resource

Herr Scales



OAK
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Gesetz



reisen



S

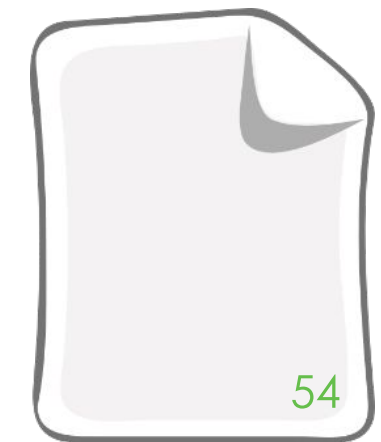


sollen

langsam



Seite



Satz

Subjekt Verb Objekt
↓ ↓ ↓
Ich habe Hunger.

Los!



Haus



S

1

eins

damals

1919

2019

mies



aus



| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 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!*

