



— LANGUAGE TOOLKIT

Umgangssprache

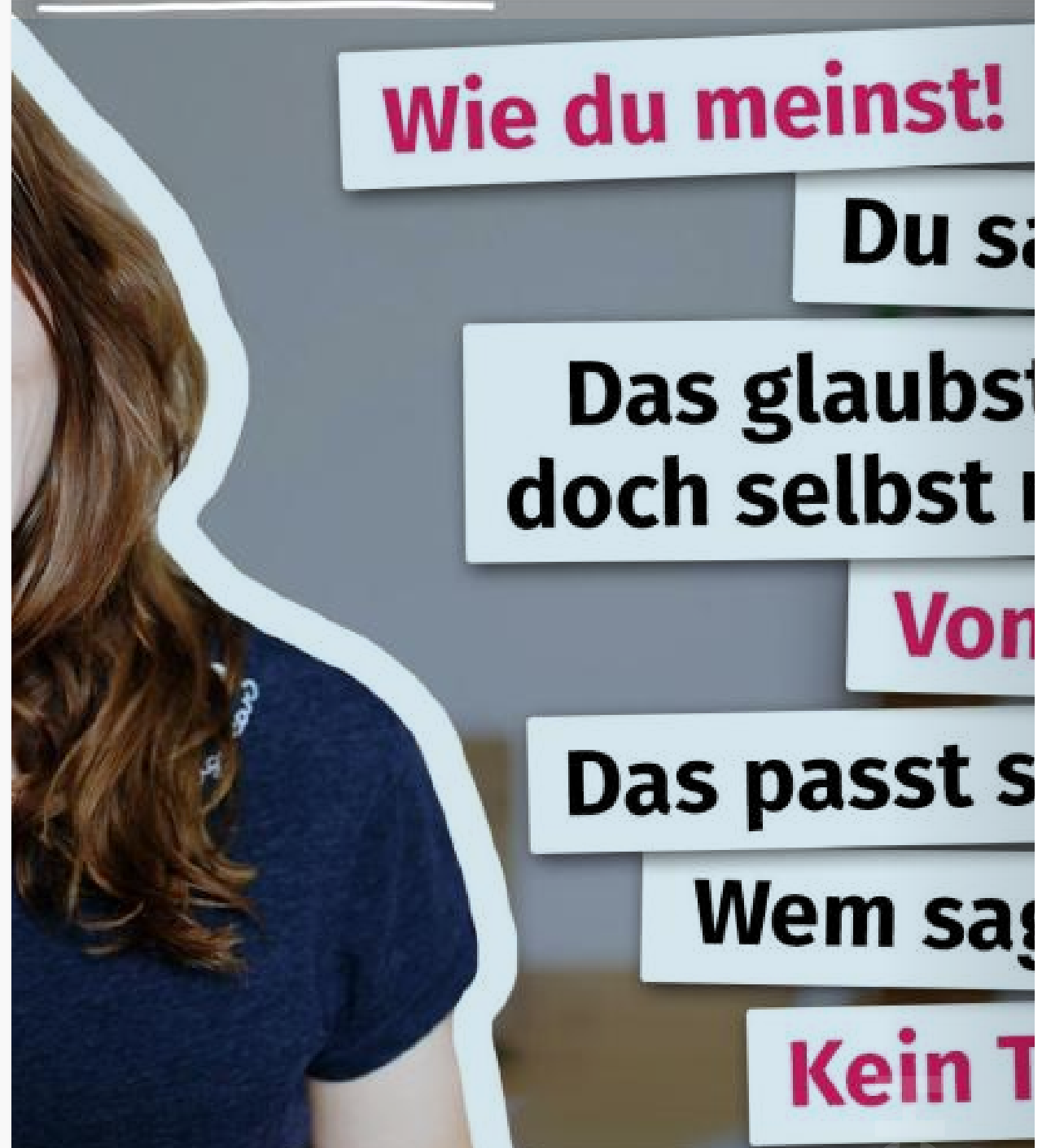
A Practical Lesson



A structured approach to teaching German colloquialisms. Includes essential expressions, contextual usage, and interactive exercises for A2-B2 learners.

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION

GERMAN LANGUAGE





AGENDA

Lesson overview & timing

A clear agenda ensures a well-paced and comprehensive learning experience. This overview outlines the key stages of our lesson, providing a roadmap for both the instructor and the students.

Introduction Objectives & Why Umgangssprache Matters.	05 min	Guided Practice Engaging with dialogues and role-play scenarios.	10 min
Core Input Introducing 7 key expressions, their meanings, and formal alternatives.	15 min	Assessment Checking comprehension with quizzes (answers withheld).	10 min
Context & Nuance Discussing register, intonation, and comparing similar phrases.	10 min	Wrap-up & Review Consolidating learning and accessing the final answer key.	05 min



LEARNING OUTCOMES

Objectives & CEFR alignment

"By the end of this lesson, students will be able to understand and appropriately use common German colloquial expressions in informal conversations."

Setting clear learning objectives is crucial for student success. This slide maps the lesson's outcomes to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), clarifying what students at different levels can expect to achieve in comprehension, production, and pragmatic competence.

Comprehension

A2-B1

Recognize and understand the general meaning of the seven target colloquial expressions when encountered in conversation or informal texts.

Production

B1

Use the expressions in appropriate, simple conversational contexts to convey agreement, skepticism, or polite refusal.

Pragmatics

B1-B2

Differentiate between informal (Umgangssprache) and formal registers, making conscious choices about which expression to use based on the social context and their relationship with the interlocutor.

Nuance

B2

Understand the subtle differences in connotation and solidarity implied by similar phrases, such as 'Du sagst es!' versus 'Wem sagst du das!'.



Input: Core expressions

This lesson focuses on seven high-frequency colloquial responses that are essential for everyday German conversation.

MODULE 02 – FREQUENCY

* Usage context indicates typical emotional register.

01 Das glaubst du doch...

"You don't believe that yourself!"

Expressing strong doubt or disbelief.

02 Du sagst es!

"You said it!"

Simple, strong agreement.

03 Wem sagst du das!

"Who are you telling!"

Agreement plus emphasis on shared experience.

04 (Das) passt schon.

"It's alright / That works."

Accepting a situation, declining help, or downplaying an apology.

05 Von mir aus.

"Fine by me / If you insist."

Giving reluctant or indifferent agreement.

06 Wie du meinst.

"As you wish / If you say so."

Acquiescing to someone's opinion while signaling slight disagreement.

07 Kein Thema!

"Not an issue! / No problem!"

Responding to thanks or an apology informally.





LINGUISTIC STRATEGY

Contrast & register

While colloquialisms make speech sound natural, formal situations require different phrasing to maintain professionalism.

● INFORMAL ● FORMAL

COLLOQUIAL (INFORMAL)

Das glaubst du doch selbst nicht!

Du sagst es! / Wem sagst du das!

(Das) passt schon.

Von mir aus. / Wie du meinst.

Kein Thema!

PROFESSIONAL (FORMAL)

Das erscheint mir wenig glaubhaft.
"That seems less than credible." / "I doubt that."

Da stimme ich Ihnen vollkommen zu.
"I agree with you completely." / "I am entirely of your opinion."

DECLINING HELP
Vielen Dank, aber ich schaffe das allein.

Ich bin damit einverstanden.
"I am in agreement with that." / "We can do it that way."

FOR 'DANKE'

ACCEPTING APOLOGY
Das ist kein Problem.

FOR 'ENTSCHULDIGUNG'



INSTRUCTOR NOTES

Pronunciation & intonation cues

The meaning of colloquial expressions is heavily influenced by intonation. How something is said is often more important than what is said.

The Indifference Zone

RELUCTANCE VS. ANNOYANCE

'Von mir aus'
'Wie du meinst'



Neutral / Reluctant

Flat intonation, slight sigh. "I don't love it, but I'll go along."



Warning

Sharp, clipped delivery. Can sound passive-aggressive. Avoid in professional contexts.

The Disbelief Spectrum

JOKING VS. SERIOUS

'Das glaubst du doch selbst nicht!'



Friendly Joking

Light, upward inflection. Used for teasing a friend about exaggerated claims.



Serious Skepticism

Lower, forceful tone. Calling out a serious untruth or ridiculous excuse.

The Energy of Agreement

CONFIRMATION VS. SOLIDARITY

'Du sagst es!'



Confirmation

Enthusiastic, high-energy. A simple, strong "Yes!"



Solidarity

Emphatic, world-weary. Stress "Wem". Signals shared suffering.

'Wem sagst du das!'



Minimal pairs of meaning

While both **"Du sagst es!"** and **"Wem sagst du das!"** express agreement, the latter adds a crucial layer of shared personal experience.

1

FACT-BASED AGREEMENT

Du sagst es!

"You're telling me!" / Simple Agreement

This expression confirms you strongly agree with a statement of fact or opinion. It focuses entirely on the **validity of the statement** itself.

EXAMPLE SCENARIO

A: **"Heute ist ein wunderschöner Tag, nicht wahr?"**

(Today is a beautiful day, isn't it?)

B: **"Du sagst es!"**

(You said it!)

2

EMPATHY-BASED AGREEMENT

Wem sagst du das!

"Tell me about it!" / Shared Experience

This emphasizes that you know exactly what the speaker means because **you have experienced the same thing**. It builds solidarity.

EXAMPLE SCENARIO

A: **"Die Mieten in Berlin sind so stark gestiegen."**

(The rents in Berlin have risen so much.)

B: **"Wem sagst du das! Ich suche auch schon seit über einem Jahr."**

(Tell me about it! I've also been looking...)



ACTIVITY

Guided dialogues

Students can practice using the target expressions through guided call-and-response dialogues.

INSTRUCTIONS

Read the statement from **Person A**. Have students choose and say the most appropriate response for **Person B**.

Person A *"Ich wurde ab jetzt jeden Tag zwei Stunden Sport machen."*

Response "Das glaubst du doch selbst!"

Person A *"Puh, das war ein anstrengender Tag heute."*

Response "Du sagst es!"

Person A *"Kinder großzuziehen ist eine große Herausforderung."*

Response "Wem sagst du das!"

Person A *"Soll ich dir beim Tragen der Einkäufe helfen?"*

Response "Nein, das passt schon."

Person A *"Danke, dass du mir beim Umzug hilfst."*

Response "Kein Thema!"



ACTIVITY PHASE

Role-play cards

Role-playing with specific scenarios helps students move from controlled practice to more spontaneous, semi-controlled production.

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide students into pairs. Assign one scenario to each pair and ask them to create a short dialogue using at least one of the target expressions.

Making Plans

01

A

Suggest pizza

You want to order pizza for dinner tonight. Suggest it to your friend.

B

Reluctant agreement

You don't have a strong opinion. You're okay with pizza but not excited. Give a reluctant agreement.

An Apology

03

A

The Mistake

You borrowed your brother's computer without asking. Admit it and apologize.

B

Forgiveness

You are the brother. You are not angry. Tell him it's not a problem.

At the Office

02

A

The Boss

Complain to your colleague that the boss has impossibly high expectations.

B

Emphatic Agreement

Agree emphatically. You also had to work late last week because of the boss's demands. Share this experience.

Difference of Opinion

04

A

New Look

You think you should get a very short haircut. Tell your friend your plan.

B

Acceptance

You disagree and prefer their hair as it is now, but you accept their decision. Respond accordingly.



FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT PART A

Quiz A: Multiple Choice

Choose the most appropriate response to complete the dialogue. *(Answers revealed in key)*

Instruction

Select the best fit for each context.

01 "Es ist so schwierig, heutzutage einen guten Job zu finden."

— " _____ ! Ich suche schon seit fünf Monaten."

- a Wem sagst du das!
- b Das glaubst du doch selbst nicht!
- c Das passt schon.

02 "Mit diesem Medikament kann man in einer Woche fünf Kilo abnehmen."

— " _____ !"

- a Das passt schon.
- b Das glaubst du doch selbst nicht!
- c Wem sagst du das!

03 "Soll ich dir helfen, die Küche aufzuräumen?"

— "Ach, _____. Ich mache das schnell alleine."

04 "Das Essen in diesem Restaurant ist einfach fantastisch!"

— " _____ ! Ich liebe vor allem die Pasta."



ASSESSMENT MODULE

Quiz B: Fill-in & transform

Active production practice: Supply the correct expressions and transform register between colloquial and formal contexts.

PART 01 FILL IN THE BLANK

01. Scenario: Apology

A: "Entschuldigung, dass ich deinen Kugelschreiber genommen habe."

B: " _____ ! Ich habe noch einen anderen."

02. Scenario: Rescheduling

A: "Ich denke, wir sollten das Meeting auf nächsten Montag verschieben."

B: "Okay, _____. Ich glaube aber, dass wir

PART 02 TRANSFORM THE SENTENCE

03. Rewrite informal to formal

CONTEXT

A: "Vielen Dank für Ihre Hilfe."

RESPONSE

B: "Kein Thema!"

Formal B: _____

04. Rewrite formal to informal

CONTEXT

A: "Ich bezweifle, dass das funktionieren wird."

RESPONSE

B: "Ich bin da ganz Ihrer Meinung."

Informal B: _____

Answers will be revealed in the next section



ASSESSMENT & APPLICATION

Answer Key & Homework

Review your understanding with the solutions below. Deepen your learning by applying these colloquialisms in the suggested homework exercises.

A Quiz A Answers

Question 1

a) Wem sagst du das!

Question 2

b) Das glaubst du doch selbst nicht!

Question 3

c) das passt schon

Question 4

b) Du sagst es!

B Quiz B Answers

Question 1

Kein Thema!

Question 2

wie du meinst

Question 3

Formal B: Gern geschehen.

Question 4

Informal B: Du sagst es!

Optional Homework Prompts

Journaling

Write a short journal entry about your day, trying to use at least **three** of the colloquial expressions learned today.

Dialogue Creation

Write a short dialogue between two friends planning a weekend trip. Include examples of agreement, disagreement, and making compromises.

Media Watch