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2<sup>nd</sup> JALT OLE SIG Conference: Languages PLUS  
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## My Language: German **ドイツ語**



Oliver Mayer

### Learning Languages (1)

- Question 1:  
“German is a difficult language to learn”.  
Do you agree?  
yes / no



- Please give a reason:  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Learning Languages (2)

- Question 2:  
“Japanese is a difficult language to learn”.  
Do you agree?  
yes / no



- Please give a reason:  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Learning Languages (3)

- Which languages are difficult to learn?
- Which languages are easy to learn?
- Please give a reason:  
\_\_\_\_\_

### German Vocabulary (1)

- Hand
- Finger
- Arm
- Ball
- Wind
- warm
- in
- Kamel
- hart
- Fisch
- Adresse

What are these  
words called in  
English?

## German Vocabulary (2)

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| • Hand    | • hand    |
| • Finger  | • finger  |
| • Arm     | • arm     |
| • Ball    | • ball    |
| • Wind    | • wind    |
| • warm    | • warm    |
| • in      | • in      |
| • Kamel   | • camel   |
| • hart    | • hard    |
| • Fisch   | • fish    |
| • Adresse | • address |

## German Vocabulary (3)

- |           |           |   |   |
|-----------|-----------|---|---|
| • Hand    | • hand    | 1. Same spelling in English and German (exception: German nouns have capital letters) |   |
| • Finger  | • finger  |   |   |
| • Arm     | • arm     |   |   |
| • Ball    | • ball    |   |   |
| • Wind    | • wind    |   |   |
| • warm    | • warm    |   |   |
| • in      | • in      |   |   |
| • Kamel   | • camel   |   | 2. Very similar spelling in English and German      |
| • hart    | • hard    |   |   |
| • Fisch   | • fish    |   | 3. Some differences in spelling (number of letters) |
| • Adresse | • address |   |   |

## Comparison of Adjectives

- gut – besser – am besten  
good – better – best
- warm – wärmer – am wärmsten  
warm – warmer – warmest
- schwierig – schwieriger – am schwierigsten  
difficult – difficulter – difficultest  
difficult – more difficult – most difficult

## Modal Verbs (1)

Question:

Do you understand these sentences?

- Peter kann schwimmen.
- Wilhelm muss singen.

## Modal Verbs (2)

- Peter kann schwimmen.  
Peter can swim.
- Wilhelm muss singen.  
William must sing.
- Peter kann nicht schwimmen.  
Peter cannot swim.
- Wilhelm muss im August in der Oper singen.  
William must sing in the opera in August.

## Conclusion

- German has some complicated aspects of grammar (e.g. gender and declension of nouns), which are time-consuming to learn.
- However, in a Japanese environment, every learner of L3 German has a basic knowledge of L2 English, which makes it easier to learn the L3.
- Making use of previous knowledge of L2 is crucial for a smooth learning process of L3.

recommended reading:

Oliver Mayer:

The Influence of English when  
Learning German

in: Studies in Foreign Languages  
& Literature 『外国語研究』

(愛知教育大学 外国語外国文学研究会)

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