The present tense is used to talk about actions you are doing now and actions you do regularly. Once you have mastered the present tense, the other tenses will make more sense.

The ending of the verb changes according to the subject (the person) of the verb. Once you know these endings, they are the same for all regular verbs and almost all irregular verbs.

Note that German makes no distinction between 'I play' and 'I am playing' – both versions are ich spiele.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>you (sg)</th>
<th>you (pl)</th>
<th>he/she/it</th>
<th>wir</th>
<th>ihr</th>
<th>sie</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Machen</td>
<td>ich mache</td>
<td>du machst</td>
<td>er/sie/es/man macht</td>
<td>wir machen</td>
<td>ihr macht</td>
<td>Sie/sie machen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lernen</td>
<td>ich lerne</td>
<td>du lernst</td>
<td>er/sie/es/man lernst</td>
<td>wir lernen</td>
<td>ihr lernt</td>
<td>Sie/sie lernen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ich spiele Tennis in der Schule. I play tennis at school.
Wir lernen gern Deutsch. We like learning German.

Verbs with a stem ending in -d or -t add an extra -e- in the du and er/sie/es forms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ich arbeite</th>
<th>wir arbeiten</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>du arbeitest</td>
<td>ihr arbeitet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>er/sie/es arbeitet</td>
<td>Sie/sie arbeiten</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbs such as bringen, finden, gehen, kommen, schreiben, schwimmen and trinken follow the regular pattern in the present but are irregular in the past tense (see p. 52 and p. 56).

1 Circle the correct word to complete the sentences.

1. Ich lerne / lernst / lernt Englisch.
2. Du hörst / hörest / höre gern Musik.
3. Lucas arbeite / arbeitet / arbeitet gut in Mathe.
5. Meine Freunde macht / macht / machen viel Sport.
6. Kaufe / Kaufst / Kauft du Papier für die Schule?

2 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. Ich ___________ gern Deutsch. (lernen)
2. Wir ___________ nicht weit von der Schule. (wohnen)
3. Sophia ___________ Sport an der Uni. (machen)
4. Meine Freunde ___________ nicht in der Schule. (arbeiten)
5. Wann ___________ du Musik? (hören)
6. ___________ Sie oft, Frau Schmidt? (kochen)

3 Use the key to form sentences using the prompts below.

Example: ? du – ☺ – viel Sport – in der Schule (treiben)
Treibst du viel Sport in der Schule?

1. meine Schwester – ☺ – in der Theater-AG (tanzen)
2. meine Freunde – ☺ – nach der Schule (arbeiten)
3. ? du – ☺ – weit von der Schule (wohnen)
4. ? ihr – ☺ – Kleidung (kaufen)

Remember to add gern after the verb to say someone likes doing something. Add nicht gern to say they don’t like doing something.
4 Use the words and phrases in the boxes to help you translate these sentences into German.

1 I buy a jacket.
2 She buys a pair of trousers. You don’t need to say ‘pair of’ in German.
3 We do homework.
4 They learn French.
5 My maths teacher plays in a band.
6 Martin, do you like playing basketball?
7 The pupils don’t like listening to jazz music.
8 You (pl) listen to too much loud music.

5 Translate the following into German.

1 I learn German at school.
2 We like buying clothes for parties.
3 My sister never plays tennis at the weekend.

6 Translate the following into German.

I learn ten subjects at school. I work a lot in English because I find languages interesting. My sister never works for tests but she always gets good marks. My friends like playing basketball. Do you like doing sport? We sometimes play table-tennis but we prefer listening to music.

Check your word order.

Which word do you need to add after the verb: gern or lieber?

Which form of the verb do you need here?

You could use machen or treiben. Remember to swap the verb and the subject.
1 Complete these sentences using the words in the box.

1 My school bag is green. __________ Schultasche ist grün.
2 We like learning history. Wir __________ gern __________.
3 My brother has too much homework. __________ Bruder hat zu __________ Hausaufgaben.
4 The lunch break is much too short. __________ ist __________ zu kurz.
5 After school, I did my homework. __________ der Schule habe ich meine Hausaufgaben __________.

2 Using the clues in brackets, complete these sentences in German.

1 Wir haben __________ E __________. (twice a week, Geography)
2 Heute Abend __________ keine H __________. (I will, no homework, do)
3 __________ ist mein Freund nicht in die Schule __________, weil er __________. (yesterday, went, ill, was)
4 Meine Freunde __________ nicht gern Mathe, __________ die __________ zu streng __________. (learn, because, female teacher, is)
5 __________ der Schule __________ meine Vokabeln. __________ (before) (I learned)

3 Translate these sentences into German. The first three have been started for you.

1 My schoolbag is black.
   Meine Schultasche __________.
2 I like learning German.
   Ich lerne __________.
3 We have too many tests.
   Wir haben __________.
4 We have Maths three times a week.
   __________
5 There are six lessons and the break is too short.
   __________
6 My English teacher is funny because she always wears trainers.
   __________
7 Before school I did my homework.
   __________
8 I went to school on the bus because it was cold.
   __________
9 This evening I will do my homework at my friend's house.
   __________
10 Yesterday my father read my report and he was very annoyed.
   __________
4 Rewrite these sentences, translating the underlined words and replacing the phrases in bold with the suggested words and phrases in brackets.

1. Meistens I come mit dem Rad in die Schule. (now and again, by train)

2. Heute bin ich mit meiner Mutter mit dem Auto travelled, weil wir eine Klassenfahrt nach Berlin machen. (with my dad, to Munich)

3. Also sind wir sehr früh got up. (quite)

4. Ich bin aufgeregt, weil ich gern mit meinen Freunden together bin. (with my friend (m))

5. Gestern we were in der Stadt und haben Essen und Getränke für die Fahrt bought. (lots of cheese rolls and biscuits)

6. Nächstes Jahr we must Abitur machen. (in 2 years). Das will stressig sein. Aber ich freue mich schon auf den Abiball! (party)

5 Translate these passages into German.

1. Usually I come to school by train, so I have to get up very early. I think that today we have a double lesson of sport in the afternoon. Last week we had a great class trip to Berlin. Although it rained every day, we had fun and I would like to go back there again one day.

2. I find my school annoying. I don’t learn French any more because I got bad marks last year. Yesterday I wanted to send my friend a text but we’re not allowed to use mobile phones at school. If I had the choice, I would rather go to school in England where they are not so strict.