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6 Briefe, Päckli u so ... Letters, packages and so on ... Uf der Poscht <i>At the post office</i>	Poschtsache erledige – Pflichte umschrybe – es Telefongspräch füere – öppis la usrichte – öppis sueche <i>Dealing with your mail – describing duties – having a conversation on the phone – leaving a message – looking for something</i>
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practise, dialogues, games



grammar

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Wär syt dihr? – Der Fritz Louber isch ghürate, het blondi Haar... – Tschou Angela, i bi der Toni.

Who are you? – Fritz Lauber is married, has blond hair... – Hello Angela, I'm Toni.

D Personalpronome – Verbe: heisse, wohne, schaffe, rede, sy, ha, cho, chönne

Personal pronouns – verbs: to be called, to live, to work, to talk/speak, to be, to have, to come, to be able to

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Mir sy guet/schlächt zwäg! – Der Tobias het Ha|sweh
We are doing great/We're not doing well! – Tobias has a sore throat

Der Artikel – d Negation – d Affirmation – Verbe: gah, wö|lle, tue, müesse, säge, ässe, vergässe, traffe

The article – negation – affirmation – verbs: to go, to want smth, to do smth, to have to, to say, to eat, to forget, to meet

33

I hätt gärn... – I gah lieber... – Der Pöschtel er bringt d Poscht – I wirde Mechaniker – Ir Metzger cha me Fleisch chouffe
I would like... – I'd rather go... – the postman brings the mail – I'm becoming an engineer – you can buy meat at the butcher's

D Vergangeheit – d Zuekunft – Verbe: möge, sueche, wärde, näh, gä

Past – future – verbs: to like, to look for sth, to become, to take, to give

45

Was choschtet es Kilo Rüebli? – D Ärsbli sy rund – Mir rächne
How much does a kilo of carrots cost? – peas are round – let's calculate

D Kardinalzahle – d Mehrzahl
Cardinal numbers – plural

53

Es isch viertel ab zwöi – Am sibni am Morge stöh mer uuf – Das isch e Maa, wo öppe vierzgi isch – Wi alt isch öje Brueder? – Das Bleistift ghört... – Wenn fahrt der Zug ab?
It is a quarter past two – we get up at seven in the morning – That's a man who's about 40 years old – how old is your brother? – this pencil belongs to... – when does the train leave?

D Frag (Fragepronome/-adjektiv/-adverb) – d Possessivpronome

The question (interrogative pronoun/-adjective/ adverb) – possessive pronouns

63

Hallo Marion, hie isch... – Es Telefongspräch mit em Gschäft – Chasch d Schegge sueche?
Hello Marion, this is... – making a business call – can you look for the checks?

D Präpositione i, under, hinter, uf, vor, über, a, zwüsche, näbe – d Modalverbe – Verb: stah

Prepositions: in, under, behind, on, in front of, above, at, between, beside – modal verbs – verb: to stand

69

Wo geits düre zum Bahnhof? – E Frou suecht d Beckerei – Was mache mir, we... – Weli Brügge gits über der Aare?
Where can I find the train station? – a woman is looking for the bakery – what do we do when... – which bridges cross the Aare?

D Dativpräpositione nach, zu, bi, vo, mit, währet, wäge, sit, statt, trotz, innert, usser(t), us – der Bedingigssatz – Verb: dörffe

Prepositions in their dative case: after, to, at, from, with, during, because, since, instead of, despite, within, except, out of – conditional clause – verb: to be allowed to

**8 Uf em Gurte | Up on the Gurte**

Wenn chunt ds Bähnli ändlech?
When is the cable-car coming?

Ortsbeschrybig – Körperbewegige – der Mönsch u syni Körperteile
Describing places – bodymovements – the human body and its body parts

9 E Bürousflyg | A field trip

Ds Architekturteam het sy Jahresuflyg gmacht
The architecture team went on its annual field trip

E Gschicht verzelle – Architektonischi Sehenswürdigkeite/Hüser
aluege – sich Kontraschte vorstelle
Telling a story – sightseeing – visualising contrasts

10 E Wohnig sueche | Looking for a flat

Der Lukas Nöihus suecht e Wohnig – Chum, mir wei d Wohnig
möbliere
Lukas Neuhaus is looking for a flat – Come, let's furnish the flat

Asprüch für ne Wohnig usdrücke – Wohnsituation – Beschaffe-
heit vo Möbel u Husgägeständ – Wohnige beschrybe
*Expressing your expectations of a flat – living situation –
quality of furniture and interior fittings – describing flats*

11 Mir boue... Luftschlösser | Dream... a dream

E Troum
A dream

Beschrybig vo Tröim u vo Wohnmüglechkeite uf der ganze Wält –
vo irrealer Situationer rede
*Describing your dreams of living situations throughout the whole
world – unreal situations*

12 Bankglägeheite | Bank business

D Frou Brunner mues Gäld ha
Mrs Brunner needs money

Zueghörigkeitsverhältnis – es Bankgespräch füere
Ownership – having a business meeting with the bank

13 Ir Beiz | At the restaurant

Brüggers lö sech la verwöhne
Brüggers allow themselves to be spoilt

Ds Ässe bstelle – verschideni Menu beschrybe
Ordering food – describing different menus

14 Es Grücht | A rumour

Me chönnt meine, es stimmi
One could think it were true

Über ghörti Vorfäll brichte – über Zytige/Radio/Plakat rede –
diskutiere
*Passing on rumours – talking about the newspaper/radio/billboards
– discussing something*

15 Ferieerinnerige | Holiday memories

Sardinie mit Sunne u Sturm
Sardinia with sun and storm

Über d Ferie verzelle – Wätterbrichte u Analyse – Wätter-
beschrybig – zämegsetzti Sätz bruuche – Usflüg zäestelle –
Idee begründe
*Talking about your holiday – weather reports –
describing the weather – using compound sentences –
organising trips – account for your ideas*



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<p>Wohi göh si? Wo sy si? – Turnüebige – Suechrätse<u>l</u> <i>Where are they going? Where are they? – gymnastics – puzzle</i></p>	<p>D Ortsadverbie – d Indefinitpronome – Verb: gheie <i>Adverbs of place – indefinite pronouns – verb: to fall</i></p>
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<p>Es Eifamiliehuus mit... – Es Spi<u>l</u> für e wälsch Praktikant – Mir verreise! <i>A family home with... – a game for the French-speaking intern – let's travel!</i></p>	<p>D Demonstrativpronome – d Akkusativpräpositione ohni, für, d<u>ür</u>, gä<u>g</u>e, u<u>m</u> <i>Demonstrative pronoun – the prepositions in their accusative case: without, for, through, against, in order to</i></p>
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<p>Wi gseht öji Wohnig uus? – Es Huus wird möbliert – Ds Büe<u>ch</u>ergste<u>ll</u> isch us Ho<u>l</u>z – Wohä<u>r</u>e ghö<u>r</u>e di fo<u>l</u>gende Sache? <i>What does your flat look like? – furnishing a house – the bookcase is made of wood – where do the objects belong?</i></p>	<p>D Zytadverbie – der Imperativ – der substantivisch Gebruuch vo Verbe <i>Adverbs of time – imperative – substantive use of verbs</i></p>
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<p>Chiemet dihr mit uf Shanghai? – Wi würdet dihr am liebschte wohne? – Verchehrti Wä<u>l</u>t: We d Tier d Herre wä<u>r</u>e... – Chinesisches Schattesp<u>i</u>l <i>Would you come to Shanghai with us? – How would you like to live? – inverted world: if animals were to rule the world... – Chinese shadow play</i></p>	<p>D M<u>ü</u>glichkeitsform – d Steigerig <i>Conjunction II – comparative and superlative</i></p>
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<p>Mir wei Rol<u>l</u>e tu<u>s</u>che – Verlooreni Kreditkarte <i>We want to switch roles – lost credit cards</i></p>	<p>Ds Zueghö<u>r</u>igkeits- und Bsitzverh<u>ä</u>ltnis <i>Possessive pronouns</i></p>
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<p>Was würdet dihr am liebschte ässe? <i>What would you like to eat?</i></p>	<p>D Deklination vo de Adjektiv <i>Declination of adjectives</i></p>
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<p>D Daniela verz<u>ä</u>llt über... – Mir mache ne chlyne Vortrag – Argumä<u>n</u>t für/gä<u>g</u>e ds Rouke <i>Daniela's talking about... – we're preparing a short lecture – pros and cons of smoking</i></p>	<p>Di indiräkti Red <i>Reported speech (conjunctive I)</i></p>
127	
<p>Was bringt ds Wä<u>t</u>ter? – I weler Jahreszyt gienget dihr i d Ferie? – Wen i der Wä<u>t</u>termacher wä<u>r</u>... – Mir mache ne Wanderig mit de Verwandte – Werum u <u>u</u>nder we<u>l</u>ne Umst<u>ä</u>nd gö<u>h</u>t dihr... <i>What will the weather be like? – which season do you prefer most for going on holidays? – If I were the weathermaker... – We're going on a hike with our relatives – why and under what circumstances would you go...</i></p>	<p>D Konjunktion <i>Conjunctions</i></p>

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Dear learners,

When I published this textbook in 1992 for German as well as French speaking people, I would never have imagined that this work would still be sold 20 years later. And in addition, that my dream of adapting this book for English speaking people would come true as well. This thrills me even more. Finally the fruit of my decades of work is also available for people who don't speak French or German. I am honoured by the years of trust put in me by my publishing partners.

You might be surprised that a dialect has grammar rules and a precisely defined spelling. The Bernese language is not only spoken, it is also the Swiss dialect with the biggest literary use. Numerous books of all sorts are published every year, cultivating the characteristics and beauties of our language, not only in traditional Bernese, but also its modern use. Just like every other dialect, Bernese is going through changes. The language is alive.

There are many different theories for the spelling. The CD which accompanies this book will bring the spoken language closer to you. It might sound somewhat messy to you in the beginning, but with time you might just begin to love the distinguishing marks of Bernese.

I hope that the many photos and illustrations as well as the stories, jokes and songs – including some by Mani Matter – will be helpful in getting to know this language and keep your motivation to learn it going. Even just to understand the spoken language and everyday situations will make social interaction and closer contact with the Bernese people much easier. Enjoy!

Ursula Pinheiro-Weber

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Lotteriefonds des Kantons Bern
Sprachkreis Deutsch

Peter Braunwalder and friends

1 Mir stellen üs vor

Let's introduce ourselves



Willkomme im Dialäkt-Kurs!

Welcome to the dialect course!



Grüess-ech mitenand.

Hello everybody.

I möcht mi gärn vorstelle:

I'd like to introduce myself:

I heisse Ursula Pinheiro-Wäber.
I wohne z Ittige bi Bärn.
I chume vo Bärn.
Ja, i bin e Bärnere.
I rede Bärndütsch.
I schaffe als Redaktorin u Kommunikationsfrou.
I ha zwöi Chind.
Si heisse Rafael u Julien.
I cha Dütsch, Französisch u Änglisch u sogar e chly Portugiesisch.
Bärndütsch isch my Muetersprach.

Wörter

grüess-ech

mitenand

Hello everybody

i möcht

I would like to

sich vorstelle

to present

heisse

to be called

wohne

to live, to reside

z Bärn

in Berne

cho

to come

vo

by, from, of

d Bärnere

inhabitant of

Berne (f.)

rede

to speak, to talk

schaffe

to work

als

than

d Husfrou

housewife

ha

to have

sy

to be

chönne

to be able to, can,

to know

e chly

a little (bit of)

d Muetersprach

mother tongue

wär

who

wi(e)

how

wo

where

was

what

rächt guet

quite good

schlächt

quite bad

nid

not

U wär syt dihr? | And who are you?



Üebet Practise

Me fragt öich, wi dihr heisset, wo dihr wohnet, vo wo dihr chömet, wi dihr redet. Antwortet:

One asks you what's your name, where do you live, where are you from, what language do you speak. Answer the following questions:



Wi heisset'er? | I heisse

Wo wohnet'er? | I wohne

Vo wo chömet'er? | I chume

Wi redet'er? | I rede

Was schaffet'er? | I schaffe als

Was isch öji Muetersprach? My Muetersprach isch

Chöit'er (guet/rächt guet/schlächt/nid) Bärndütsch? | I cha

Dihr heit gmerkt: | You've noticed:

the personal pronouns:

i(g)	<i>I</i>
du	<i>you</i>
är	<i>he</i>
si	<i>she</i>
äs	<i>it</i>
mir	<i>we</i>
dihr	<i>you</i>
si	<i>they</i>
me	<i>one (indefinite pronoun)</i>

Attention:

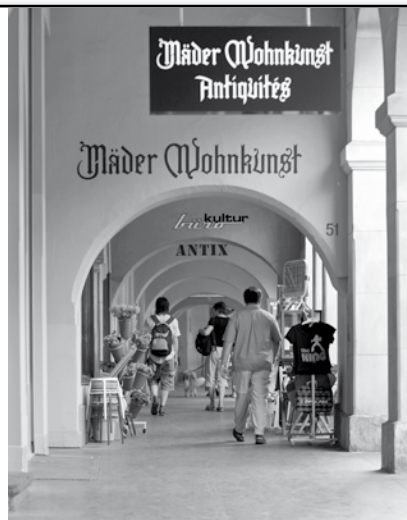
For the polite form of address we use **«dihr»**. If the pronoun follows the verb (rather than preceding it), it's softened to **«er»** (an unstressed **«e»**).

The polite form of address is never – in comparison to other Swiss dialects – in the third person plural.

ZUM GSPASS

Bärner Kontaktgespräch
Bernese chat

«Dihr!»
«Wär?»
«Dihr!»
«Ig?»
«Ja!»
«Was?»
«Syt dihr nid der Meier?»
«Wär?»
«Dihr!»
«Ig?»
«Ja!»
«Nei!»



Verbs

regular

	heisse <i>to be called</i>	wohne <i>to live</i>	schaffe <i>to work</i>	rede <i>to talk/speak</i>
i(g)	heisse	wohne	schaffe	rede
du	heissisch	wohnsch	schaff(i)sch	redsch
är, si, äs, me	heisst	wohnt	schaffet	redt
mir	heisse	wohne	schaffe	rede
dühr	heisset	wohnet	schaffet	redet
si	heisse	wohne	schaffe	rede
<i>past participle</i>	gheisse	gwohnt	gschaffet	gredt
<i>imperative</i>	–	wohn!	schaff!	red!
<i>subjunctive II</i>	heissti	wohnti	schaffti	redti

irregular

	sy <i>to be</i>	ha <i>to have</i>	cho <i>to come</i>	chönne <i>to be able to</i>
i(g)	bi	ha	chume	cha
du	bisch	hesch	chunsch	chasch
är, si, äs, me	isch	het	chunt	cha
mir	sy	hei	chöme	chöi
dühr	syt	heit	chömet	chöit
si	sy	hei	chöme	chöi
<i>past participle</i>	gsy	gha	cho	chönne
<i>imperative</i>	bis!	hüb!	chum!	–
<i>subjunctive II</i>	wär(i)	hätt(i)	chiem, chäm(ti)	chönnt(i)

Dühr heit gmerkt: | *You've noticed:*

– *living: the statement of location «in» turns to «Z»:*

(«z Bärn», «z Luzärn», «z Gänf», «z Bremgarte», «z Lugano», «z Fribourg» etc.).

Word family – verb «cho»

– **übercho** | *to get/receive*

I ha nes Gschänk übercho.
I have got a present.

Är het Fieber übercho.
He has got a fever.

– **acho** | *to arrive /to touch*

Der Zug isch acho.
The train's arrived.

Chum mir nid aa!
Don't touch me!

– **vorcho** | *to happen/occur*

Es chunt viil vor, dass mir singe.
It's quite often that we sing.

– **fürcho** | *to survive*

Si chöme für, trotz em Hunger.
They're surviving, despite the hunger.

– **uscho** | *to get along*

I chume mit em Fritz nid guet uus.
I don't get along with Fritz.

Dihr heit gmerkt: | You've noticed:

The regular verbs are conjugated as following:

i(g)	schaff...	...e
du		...(i)sch
är, si, äs		...(e)t
mir		...e
dihr		...et
si		...e

The Bernese might be a bit slow, but they sure can work!

There are many different expressions for working:

- schaffe:** neutral, positive (urban/rural)
- bügle:** slang (urban)
- wärche:** positive (rural)
- arbeite:** cultivated language, intellectual work
- chrampfe:** generally negative (urban/rural)



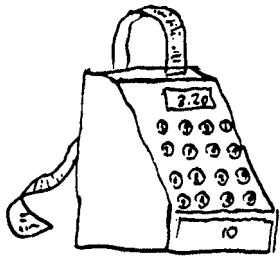
Üebet
Practise

Setzet für di folgende Persone en Identität zäme!
Create an identity for the following people!

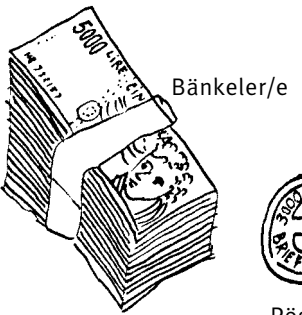
der Fritz Louber, der Küre (Kurt)¹ Husamme, der Wale (Walter) Käller, d Antonia Wiederkehr,
d Trixle (Beatrice) Schaller, ds Vreni Allder ...

isch...	het...	chunt...	wohnt...
pensioniert	bruuni/blondi Haar	us em Waadtland	z Bärn ²
jung	grüeni/blaui Ouge	vo Gämf	z Bümpliz
ghürate	e Glatze	vo Friburg	z Oschtermundige
gschide	e Narbe im Gsicht	vo Züri	z Neuburg
ledig	e dicke Buuch	us em Tessin	im Oberland ²
freischaffend	e Brülle	vo Kerzers	im Friburgische

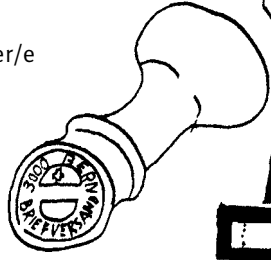
u schaffet als ...



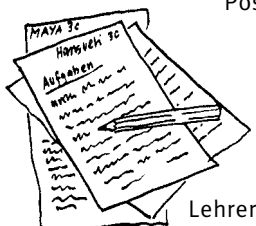
Verchöiffer/e



Bänkeler/e



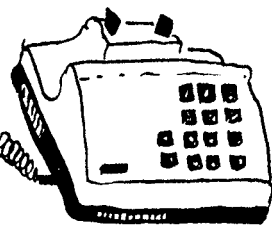
Pöschtelere



Lehrer/e



Agstell/i



Journalischt/in

Wörter

der Pöschtelere postman	bruun brown
der Bankagstell bank assistant	blond blond
der Lehrer teacher	ds Haar hair
der Agstell employee	ds Oug eye
der Verchöiffer sales/shop assistant; seller	grüen green
der Journalischt journalist	blau blue
pensioniert pensioned off, retired	d Glatze bald head
jung young	d Narbe scar
ghürate married	dick fat
gschide divorced	der Buuch belly, stomach
ledig single, unmarried	d Brülle glasses, spectacles
freischaffend freelance, self-employed	

Dihr heit gmerkt: | You've noticed:

- 1) It's typical to change your name in Bernese.
- 2) If a location comes without an article «in» turns to «Z»: «Z Bärn» etc. Locations used with an article take «im»: «im Elsass» etc.



Üebet

Practise

Beschrybet der Charakter u ds Usgseh vo de folgende Persone:

Describe the character and appearance of the following people:

E.g.: **Die Person isch jung.**
Die Person isch mager. etc.



Wi begrüesse mir enand? | *How do we greet?*



Läset

Read

Läset dä Text u verglychet ne mit em Schema vis-à-vis: Es zeigt, wi mir üs begrüesse.

Read the following text and compare it with the picture to your right. It shows how we greet people differently depending on the formalities.

- Tschou zäme.** I bi der Manuel Brügger. I bi nüüni (9) u gah natürlech no i d Schuel.
- Hallo Manuel.** I bi d Lea Brügger. I bi zwölf-jährig (12), gly Sekundarschüelere.
- Grüess-di Lea.** I heisse Selina Abderhalde. I bi nünzchwänzgi (29). I bi Verchöiffere imene Herregschäft.
- Sälü Selina.** My Name isch Simon Abderhalde. I ha Jahrgang sächsesibeizg (1976). My Bruef isch Awält.
- Hoi Simon.** I bi der Toni Zürcher. I bi füfedryssgi (35), single. I bi Bio-Buur u Gmüeshändler.
- Grüess-ech Herr Zürcher.** I bi d Sandra Brügger. I bi einevierzgi (41) u schaffe als Husfrou u als Teilzytsekretärin.
- Guete Tag Frou Brügger.** I heisse Lukas Nöihus. I bi dreievierzgi (43) u Bankagstellte.
- Tschou zäme.** I bi der Pascal Brügger u bi Arzt, Husarzt. I bi vierevierzgi (44).
- Hey zäme.** I heisse Chrischtine Dummermueth, bi Lehrere u gah gäge di fünfze.
- Grüess-ech.** I bi d Antonia Ramseyer. I bi einefüfzg-jährig (51). I bi Schouspilere.
- Grüess-ech mitenand.** I bi der Andreas Ramseyer. I bi dreiefüfzgi (53) u leite ne Poschtstell.
- Guete Tag mitenand.** I heisse Florina Brunner. I bi gschide, über sächzgi (60), aber nid pensioniert. Werum, weit'er wüsse? Eh, wül i halt als ehemaligi Gmeindrätin u aktivi Politikere immer öppis z tüe ha.

Wörter

Usgseh

dick

fat

eggig

rectangular

gross

big, large

schlank

slim

dünn

thin

spitz

pointy

bleich

pale

rötlich

reddish

brünett

brunette

ufdunse

bloated

mager

thin, skinny

fescht

strong; well-built

jung

young

alt

old

chly

small, little

Charakter

unschuldig

innocent

chindlech

childlike; childish

froulech

feminine, womanly

männlech

masculine, virile,

male

lieb

nice, dear

bös

angry; mean, evil

nätt

kind

unfründlech

unfriendly

yladend

charming, inviting

abstossend

disgusting, repulsive

härzlech

cordial, affectionate

ufgestellt

positive, bright

strahlend

shining, brilliant

ufmerksam

attentive, alert

gedankeverlore

absorbed, lost in thought

nögierig

curious

gwundrig

curious

more words

referring to the text

d Schuel

school

gäge di fünfze

almost fifty

gly

soon

wül

because

öppis

something

d Sekundarschüelere

pupil (female) of a secondary school

der Awält

lawyer, attorney

der Bio-Buur

organic farmer

der Gmüeshändler

greengrocer

d Teilzytsekretärin

part-time secretary

der Bankagstell

bank assistant

der Husarzt

family doctor

d Lehrere

teacher (f.)

d Schouspilere

actress

leite

to conduct; to govern; to guide

gshide

divorced

d Gmeindrätin

municipal council (f.)

d Politikere

politician (f.)

d Verchöiffere

die Verkäuferin

Greetings/Goodbyes

Singular

informal addressing

tschou Manuel *hello Manuel*

hallo

sälü

hoi

grüess-ech

guete Morge

guete Tag

gueten Aabe

uf Widerluege

guet Nacht

adjeu

formal addressing

good day

good morning

good day

good evening

goodbye

good night

farewell

Plural

informal addressing

tschou zäme *hi everybody*

grüess-ech zäme

grüess-ech mitenand

guete Morge mitenand

guete Tag mitenand

gueten Aabe mitenand

uf Widerluege mitenand

guet Nacht mitenand

adjeu mitenand

formal addressing

good day everyone

good morning everyone

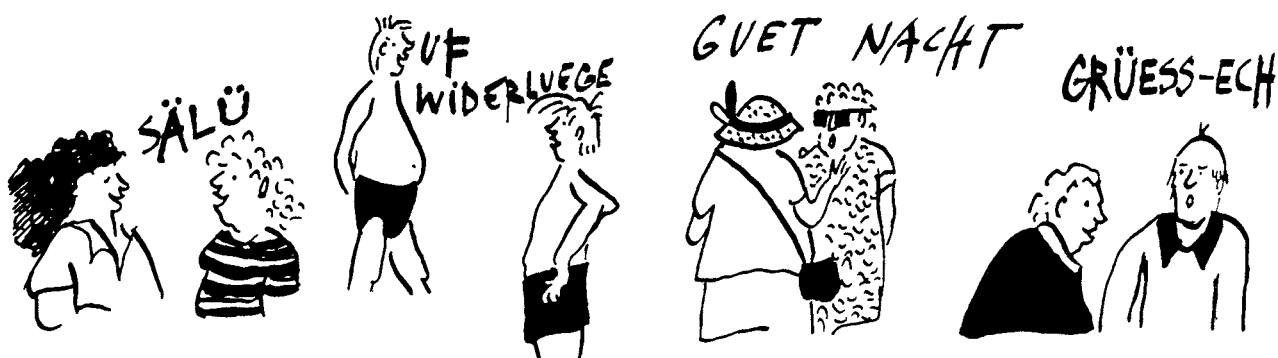
good day everyone

good evening everyone

goodbye everyone

good night everyone

farewell everyone



Grammar

Personal pronouns

- There are stressed and unstressed personal pronouns, depending on their position, meaning and use:
 - stressed: when the pronoun is emphasized by the speaker and when the pronoun is preceded by a preposition. Note, however, that this is a colloquial appearance, a preposition does not actually request a stressed personal pronoun.
 - unstressed: another part of the sentence is more important than the personal pronoun (which is usually the case).
- Formal difference:
 - stressed: long, voiced vowel, pronounced clearly.
 - unstressed: short, unvoiced vowel, slurred or even dropped entirely.

There are many different forms of the personal pronoun, all depending on the context it is used in:

	<i>nominative</i>	<i>accusative</i>	<i>dative</i>
<i>singular</i>	iig/ig/ii/i ¹ du är/er sii/si äs/es/'s me/mi	mi ² di ihn/ne si/seie/se ihns/'s eim	mir/mer ³ dir/der ihm ihre/(n)ere/re ihm eim
<i>plural</i>	mir/mer dihr/'er si/seie	üs/(n)is öich/(n)ech si/seie/se	üs/(n)is öich/(n)ech ihne/ne
<i>reflexive</i>	–	sich/sech	sich/sech

- 1) The nominative case usually calls for the unstressed personal pronoun, since it rarely is the primary subject of a sentence.
- 2) In the accusative case, especially the 3rd person singular and plural, the personal pronouns are often unstressed unless they come after a preposition or are used to compare something.
- 3) Though the personal pronouns in their dative case are actually stressed, they are rarely used as such, even when following a preposition.