

nominative/accusative plural *die Bücher*, etc.

■ **direct object** (see **object**)

■ **feminine** (see **gender**)

■ **gender**

'Gender' indicates whether a word is masculine, feminine or neuter. All nouns in German have gender.

*der Mann, die Frau, das Buch*

■ **imperative**

The imperative is used to give commands or instructions and also to make suggestions.

*Be quiet and don't run!*

*Let's go to a nice concert.*

■ **indirect object** (see **object**)

■ **infinitive**

The infinitive is the base form of a verb, which does not show any person or tense. It is the form found in dictionaries.

*(to) arrive, (to) buy, (to) have, (to) like*

■ **interrogative**

Interrogative words are used to ask questions.

*Which train did you take?* (adjective)

*Which do you prefer?* (pronoun)

*Where did you buy it?* (adverb)

■ **intransitive** (see **transitive**)

■ **Konjunktiv**

The German subjunctive has two types, **Konjunktiv I** and **Konjunktiv II**. **Konjunktiv I** has present, future and past forms and is used for indirect speech.

*Sie sagte, sie lese die Zeitung.*

**Konjunktiv II** has a present and a past form and is used to express wishes, possibilities or doubts.

*Ich wünschte, er wäre hier.*

*Ich wünschte, er wäre hier gewesen.*

■ **masculine** (see **gender**)

■ **modal particle**

A modal particle is a word which indicates the speaker's attitude towards what is being said.

*Just be quiet for one moment!*

German makes frequent use of modal particles, which include **doch**, **mal** and **ja**.

■ **modal verb**

A modal verb is used with another verb and expresses the speaker's attitude towards the action conveyed by that verb, such as ability or obligation to do something.

*I can do this on my own. We ought to leave now.*

■ **negative**

Negative words indicate that something is NOT done.

*I'm not staying. He never writes postcards.*

*Nobody followed her. They said nothing.*

■ **neuter** (see **gender**)

■ **noun**

A noun is a word which names a person, a thing, a place or an abstract idea.

*Peter, book, Hamburg, courage, love*

■ **number**

'Number' indicates whether a noun, pronoun or verb is singular or plural.

*This is my book.* (singular)

*These are my books.* (plural)