

(*the German federal railway*), der **Deutsch-Französische** Freundschaftsvertrag (*the Franco-German Friendship Treaty*)

- adjectives formed from a place name by adding the (invariable) ending **-er**
der **Kölner Dom** (*Cologne Cathedral*), der **Bielefelder** Kinderchor (*the Bielefeld children's choir*)
- adjectives in titles
Königliche Hoheit (*Your Royal Highness*)
- adjectives in the names of special calendar days
der **Heilige Abend** (*Christmas Eve*)
- adjectives following **etwas, nichts, jemand, niemand**, etc.
nichts Neues (*nothing new*), **jemand Fremdes** (*somebody foreign*)
except that **ander** does not take a capital letter:
etwas/nichts anderes (*something/nothing else*)

2.3 Punctuation

■ 2.3.1 The full stop

- a A full stop is used in German
- after dates and ordinal numbers:
Montag, den **13.** August *Monday, 13th August*
read: 'Montag, den dreizehnten August'
der **2.** Weltkrieg *World War II*
read: 'der Zweite Weltkrieg'
 - after abbreviations which are read out in full:
usw. = und so weiter *and so on*
z.B. = zum Beispiel *for example*
Dr. = Doktor *Doctor*

b No full stop is used

- after abbreviations that are pronounced as such:
KG = Kommanditgesellschaft *limited partnership*
read: 'kah geh'
DGB = Deutscher *German Federation*
Gewerkschaftsbund *of Trade Unions*
read: 'de geh be'
- after weights and measures:
m = Meter
kg = Kilogramm

■ 2.3.2 The comma

In principle, the comma is used in German to separate all clauses within a sentence, whether they are main or subordinate clauses:

main clause	[Wir redeten bis spät	<i>We talked late</i>
subordinate clause		in die Nacht,	<i>into the night</i>
	[weil wir uns jahrelang	<i>since we hadn't seen</i>
		nicht gesehen hatten.	<i>each other for years.</i>

The most important exceptions to this rule are as follows:

- a Clauses linked by **und** or **oder** generally do not have a comma between them when they are
- two main clauses sharing a common subject, which is not repeated:
Ich kam Sonntag zurück *I came back on Sunday and*
und musste gleich weiter *had to go straight on to*
nach Berlin. *Berlin.*
 - two subordinate clauses, whether or not they share a subject:
Sie gab ihm eine letzte *She gave him one last*
Chance, obwohl er sie *chance, although he didn't*