

Giving Compliments

Trying to make new friends? Looking for the love of your life? Then you'll need to know how to give compliments! Compliments are a great way to make someone feel good about themselves, to cheer them up, or to help motivate them. When you think about it, they're really quite powerful tools of communication!

Below, we'll introduce you to two different types of compliments and show you ways of how to respond to them. Let's get started improving your German!

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Complimenting Abilities, Character, and Belongings

Complimenting someone's abilities, character or belongings is quite safe and a polite thing to do in everyday conversation – even with people you might not know very well. In the table below, we'll help guide you through different ways to form these everyday compliments.

German

Das war unglaublich!

Du hast tolle Arbeit geleistet.

Deine Mutter ist die beste Köchin.

Du hast ein schönes Haus.

Mir ist aufgefallen, dass du ein wirklich guter Sänger bist.

Dein Schreiben inspiriert mich wirklich.

Du hast einen guten Geschmack.

Du bist ein helles Köpfchen!

English

That was incredible!

You did a great job.

Your mom is the best cook.

You have a lovely house.

I noticed you are a really good singer.

Your writing really inspires me.

You have good taste.

You're a smart cookie!

 **German**

Du bist so klug.

Das war eine großartige Idee.

 **English**

You're so smart.

That was a great idea.

Du hast einen guten Geschmack (*You have good taste*)

This compliment isn't referring to the taste of food or drinks, but instead could refer to how a person dresses, their interior design, or their music collection. Here is an example to show you how to use this compliment in one of those contexts: Du hast einen guten Musikgeschmack (*You have good taste in music*). There are many different ways you could respond to a phrase like this, for example: Danke, das weiß ich zu schätzen (*Thanks, I appreciate that*) or Das ist so nett von dir zu sagen (*That's so nice of you to say*).

Du bist ein helles Köpfchen! (*You're a smart cookie!*)

This German idiom can be used to describe somebody who is intelligent or does something smartly (literal translation: You are a bright head). It is very similar to the English idiom: You're a smart cookie!. A response to this compliment might look something like: Danke, das freut mich zu hören (*Thanks, I'm happy to hear that*).

Complimenting Somebody's Appearance

Complimenting someone on their looks is not always easy and can often lead to awkward situations. But don't worry! With phrases like the ones in the table below, you'll be on the safe side and can be confident when giving compliments!

 **German**

Du siehst fantastisch aus.

Ich mag deinen Mantel.

Ich liebe deine Schuhe!

Deine Frisur sieht heute richtig gut aus.

Das Hemd steht dir gut.

 **English**

You look fantastic.

I really like your coat.

I love your shoes!

Your hair looks really nice today.

That shirt really suits you.

 **German**

Das Kleid sieht fantastisch an dir aus.

Die Jacke passt gut zu deinem Hemd.

Mir gefällt, wie du dir heute Morgen deine Haare gemacht hast.

Dein Modegeschmack gefällt mir sehr gut.

 **English**

That dress looks awesome on you.

That jacket goes well with your shirt.

I like how you did your hair this morning.

I really like your sense of style.

Du siehst fantastisch aus (*You look fantastic*)

By using the sentence pattern *Du siehst + BESCHREIBUNG + aus (You look + DESCRIPTION)* you can easily compliment somebody's general appearance. Here is another example of how to use this: *Du siehst glücklich aus (You look happy)*. There are tons of ways to respond to a compliment like this. For example, somebody might simply say: *Danke du auch! (Thanks, you too!)*.

Ich mag deinen Mantel (*I really like your coat*)

You can use the sentence pattern *Ich mag deinen + KLEIDUNGSSTÜCK (I really like your + CLOTHING)* to tell someone that you like something that they are wearing. For example, you could say something like: *Ich mag dein Outfit (I really like your outfit)*. Again, there are many ways someone might respond to a compliment like this, for example like this: *Danke, ich habe es erst gestern gekauft (Thanks, I just got it yesterday)*.

Das Hemd steht dir gut (*That shirt really suits you*)

Use the sentence pattern *KLEIDUNGSSTÜCK + steht dir gut (CLOTHING + really suits you)* to tell somebody that something they are wearing really suits them. Another example of this is: *Die Jacke steht dir gut (That jacket really suits you)*. Alternatively, you could use *KLEIDUNGSSTÜCK + sieht gut an dir aus (That + CLOTHING + looks good on you)* to say that something looks good on somebody. Here is an example using this sentence pattern: *Das Hemd sieht gut an dir aus (That shirt looks good on you)*. These are simple and useful ways to compliment something that somebody is wearing. A typical response would probably just be: *Danke dir! (Thank you!)*.

Accepting Compliments

When somebody compliments something about you it's often polite to show your appreciation. Take a look at the examples below to find out how to do this!



German

Es ist so nett von dir, das zu sagen.
 Ich danke dir. Ich weiß das zu schätzen.
 Ich weiß dein Kompliment zu schätzen.
 Ich freu mich, dass es dir gefällt.
 Danke! Ich liebe es zu schreiben.
 Danke, das finde ich auch.
 Wirklich? Da wäre ich nie darauf gekommen.
 Ich freue mich, das zu hören!
 Es ist schön zu sehen, dass du es zu schätzen weißt.



English

That's so nice of you to say.
 Thank you, I appreciate that.
 I appreciate your compliment.
 I'm glad you like it.
 Thank you! I love writing.
 Thanks, I think so too.
 Really? I never would have thought that.
 I'm glad to hear that!
 It's nice to see that you appreciate it.

Es ist so nett von dir, das zu sagen (*That's so nice of you to say*)

Here is an example of an easy way to show your appreciation for a compliment. Ich weiß das zu schätzen (*I appreciate that*) is another sentence, which has a similar meaning. After saying either of these phrases, you could then respond by complimenting something about the other person. For example like this: Ich liebe deine Schuhe auch! (*I really love your shoes too!*).

Danke! Ich liebe es zu schreiben (*Thank you! I love writing*)

Thanking someone and telling them how much you enjoy whatever it is they complimented is another way to show your appreciation for a compliment. Maybe they complimented your new hairdo, or something you've been working very hard to improve, like your guitar playing skills. Here is another example of this: Danke, ich arbeite hart daran, mein Schreiben zu verbessern (*Thanks, I've been really trying to improve my writing*). Weiter so! (*Keep up the great work!*) is something someone could say in response.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the most important German phrases that I should know when giving compliments to others?

Du bist so klug.	You're so smart.
Du siehst fantastisch aus.	You look fantastic.
Ich mag deinen Mantel.	I really like your coat.
Ich liebe deine Schuhe!	I love your shoes!
Das Hemd steht dir gut.	That shirt really suits you.
Dein Modegeschmack gefällt mir sehr gut.	I really like your sense of style.
Es ist so nett von dir, das zu sagen.	That's so nice of you to say.
Ich danke dir. Ich weiß das zu schätzen.	Thank you, I appreciate that.

How do I compliment somebody's appearance?

By using the sentence pattern *Du siehst + BESCHREIBUNG + aus* (*You look + DESCRIPTION*) you can easily compliment somebody's general appearance.

Du siehst fantastisch aus. (You look fantastic.)

Du siehst wunderschön aus. (You look beautiful.)

Du siehst sehr glücklich aus. (You look very happy.)

How do I compliment something that somebody is wearing?

You can use the sentence pattern *Ich mag deinen + KLEIDUNGSSTÜCK* (*I really like your + CLOTHING*) to tell someone that you like something that they are wearing.

Ich mag deinen Mantel. (I really like your coat.)

Ich mag dein Hemd. (I really like your shirt.)

Ich mag deinen Schal. (I really like your scarf.)

What is the easiest way to compliment somebody?

Probably the most common way to compliment somebody is to simply tell them what you like about them. This can be done in several different ways, but here are a couple examples: Dein Hut gefällt mir sehr gut. (*I really like your hat.*), Du hast eine schöne Gesangsstimme. (*You have a beautiful singing voice.*), and Der Pullover passt gut zu deinem Outfit. (*That sweater goes well with your outfit.*).

When should I compliment somebody's appearance?

Complimenting somebody's appearance is not always the best thing to do right when you meet somebody for the first time, and could lead to awkward moments. It's relatively normal to compliment other people's clothing even if you don't know them, but it's better to save compliments about a person's body until you know them more.

How do I compliment something that somebody is wearing?

You can complement somebody's clothing by using any of the following sentence patterns:

KLEIDUNGSSTÜCK + steht dir gut. (*CLOTHING + really suits you.*)

Das Hemd steht dir gut. (*That shirt really suits you.*)

Dein Hut steht dir gut. (*Your hat really suits you.*)

Der Mantel steht dir gut. (*The coat really suits you.*)

KLEIDUNGSSTÜCK + sieht gut an dir aus. (*That + CLOTHING + looks good on you.*)

Das Hemd sieht gut an dir aus. (*That shirt looks good on you.*)

Die Jacke sieht gut an dir aus. (*That jacket looks good on you.*)

Das Kleid sieht gut an dir aus. (*That dress looks good on you.*)

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Die Jacke passt gut zu deinem Hemd. (*That jacket goes well with your shirt.*)

Die Jacke passt gut zu deinem Outfit. (*That jacket goes well with your outfit.*)

Die Jacke passt gut zu deiner Hose. (*That jacket goes well with your pants.*)



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