

Preface

Welcome to the exciting new Sixth Edition of ***Deutsch: Na klar!***, wrapped in a clean, beautiful new interior design. Those familiar with this textbook know that ***Deutsch: Na klar!*** offers a versatile, comprehensive, and colorful program for introductory German courses. The Sixth Edition continues to provide an innovative package designed to suit a wide variety of approaches, methodologies, and classrooms, while still preserving many standard pedagogical features that instructors have come to rely on. ***Deutsch: Na klar!*** is not a one-method program. Among its trusted and proven features you will recognize the following:

- ▶ engaging video interviews with native speakers of German on the chapter topics as well as broader cultural footage that focuses on particular aspects of the chapter themes.
- ▶ a rich array of authentic visual and textual materials with accompanying activities and exercises
- ▶ succinct grammar explanations
- ▶ a commitment to the balanced development of both receptive skills (listening and reading) and productive skills (speaking and writing)
- ▶ abundant communicative activities, as well as many form-focused activities and exercises
- ▶ the promotion of meaningful acquisition of vocabulary and structures with considerable attention to accuracy

Deutsch: Na klar! — Just the Facts!

If one theme characterizes ***Deutsch: Na klar!*** best, it's "Back to Basics" in German. ***Deutsch: Na klar!*** introduces students to the fundamentals of German language and cultures through a flexible approach that has wide appeal. ***Deutsch: Na klar!*** does not rely on gimmicks or tricks. It immerses students in German language and culture through a careful combination of authentic materials and targeted listening and speaking exercises, ranging from controlled to open-ended. They provide comprehensible input of vocabulary and grammar. It also offers a wide variety of cultural texts and activities, including a totally new section in the Sixth Edition called **Landeskunde zum Mitnehmen** (or *Culture to Go*). Along with all of this, ***Deutsch: Na klar!*** offers readings that elaborate on the chapter

theme, podcasts in which the students are given opportunities to develop their presentational skills, and video segments that demonstrate how German works in everyday situations.

Deutsch: Na klar! – Just the Facts” addresses many of the questions you have about the changing world of teaching German and how the program responds to those changes to support instructors and students in teaching and learning German. The following are some questions instructors and students alike have posed about ***Deutsch: Na klar!***

- ▶ **Question 1: What outcomes do German instructors want their students to achieve and how does ***Deutsch: Na klar!*** help accomplish this?**
Answer: First and foremost, instructors want students to be able to communicate in German and make themselves understood to other German speakers. And they want them to do it with the appropriate degree of accuracy. Instructors want their students to be able to understand both spoken and written German with a certain amount of detail. They also want them to read German with a certain amount of ease and without having to look up every word. And they want them to be knowledgeable about the cultures of German-speaking countries. How does ***Deutsch: Na klar!*** support these goals? It engages students with authentic materials in print, audio, and video and puts them into the kinds of situations they would encounter in any German-speaking environment. It gets students to communicate, both in a controlled way at first, and then in an open-ended fashion, on a variety of topics that affect their own lives. ***Deutsch: Na klar!*** engages students in cross-cultural comparisons and analysis throughout the book—they state opinions, summarize and synthesize texts, and narrate events. At every turn, the program increases students' proficiency in German—they communicate, learn about the culture of German-speaking countries, make connections with other disciplines, and reach out to learn about communities of German speakers.
- ▶ **Question 2: How does ***Deutsch: Na klar!*** work as a German program?**
Answer: The program takes students from their personal world (talking about themselves, their likes, their dislikes, where they live, their families and friends) to the world of everyday living (buying a train ticket, shopping for groceries or clothes, staying fit and healthy, enjoying leisure

time) and ultimately culminates in the world of topics and issues (the media, environment, public opinion). Vocabulary and grammar are presented in a functional framework so students will associate forms with functions. It is a carefully crafted program that takes students from sentence-level language and gradually builds their skills and knowledge to engage them in more extensive conversation about particular topics.

► **Question 3: What sets *Deutsch: Na klar!* apart from other introductory German programs?**

Answer: It is unabashedly “authentic,” using authentic texts and materials in a coordinated way and embedding them in content and in a context supported by a step-by-step grammar program to ensure accuracy. What do we mean by authentic materials? Sure we use lots of ads and brochure-type documents to present vocabulary, grammar, and culture. But we don’t stop there. All of the authentic documents we use, from text-based to video-based, are contextualized. Students are encouraged to use background knowledge and context to aid comprehension. When students are learning about leisure-time activities, they encounter documents that present the topic to them and follow this with a wide variety of listening, speaking, and writing activities to reinforce the concept. Vocabulary is thus introduced in context in order to stimulate meaningful language. Unique among introductory German programs, *Deutsch: Na klar!* introduces students to types of materials they will encounter in German-speaking countries. Finally, it is all brought together in activities that connect vocabulary (**Wörter im Kontext**), grammar (**Grammatik im Kontext**), and readings and culture (**Sprache im Kontext**).

Those are “Just the Facts” about *Deutsch: Na klar!*, a high-quality introductory German program that has been consistently praised for addressing students at the appropriate level and for engaging them intellectually in an adventurous language-learning experience.

In the Sixth Edition, the interview-based video (**Videoclips**), taped on location in Berlin with footage from Bonn and Cologne, provides authentic input directly related to the chapter theme, language functions, and cultural topics. The language the students hear in the interviews with native speakers is visually supported with vocabulary and phrases printed on-screen, so that students can directly relate what they see on the screen to what they hear. The comprehensible yet natural speech of the interviews, combined with the images, provides students with a window into the lives, habits, and customs of today’s German speakers, so that they can develop both communicative skills and cultural awareness. There are also documentary-style snippets

that complement and elaborate on the topics of the interviews.

ACTFL National Standards

The five Cs of the National Standards—Communication, Connections, Culture, Comparisons, and Communities—developed by ACTFL in collaboration with AATG, AATF, and AATSP (*Standards for Foreign Language Learning: Preparing for the 21st Century*) permeate the activities, exercises, readings, cultural and language features, and video of *Deutsch: Na klar!* Each chapter provides opportunities for students to communicate in German in real-life situations for real purposes. Authentic materials and the video, as well as the exercises based on them, stimulate students’ thinking about their own language and culture in order to draw cross-cultural comparisons and connect their study of German language and culture with other disciplines. And finally, opportunities for students to reach out to German-speaking communities locally and globally are provided through Internet activities. Although all the activities in *Deutsch: Na klar!* relate in some way to the National Standards, in the Sixth Edition, an instructor annotation highlights each Standard at least once in each chapter.

In summary, through its authentic materials, cultural features, readings, listening texts, communicative activities, grammar exercises, and innovative technology, *Deutsch: Na klar!* teaches students how to use German effectively in real-life situations and how to communicate successfully in the German-speaking world.

Organization of the Text

The structure of *Deutsch: Na klar!* is simple yet effective. The program begins with a focus on the world of the learner, moves to the survival world, and culminates in the world of issues and ideas. This is accomplished in the following way: The **Einführung** and **Kapitel 1–4** focus on students and their world, following learners in their daily lives and teaching them to describe who they are and how they live and interact with friends and family. **Kapitel 5–10** concentrate on the survival world, helping students to navigate the world outside their most immediate surroundings. Here they learn to make purchases and order in restaurants, to talk about what they do in their leisure time, and how they keep fit and healthy, as well as where they go and what they do in the city and when they travel. The last four chapters, **Kapitel 11–14**, focus on the world of issues and ideas. Students learn how German speakers talk about the world of work and the use of technology. They also learn about the bigger picture of living in German-speaking countries and how German speakers entertain themselves and get their news and information.

The Sixth Edition of the *Deutsch: Na klar!* textbook culminates in a new feature called **Landeskunde zum Mitnehmen**. This section presents students with six different cultural topics in German, ranging from geography through politics to legends and fairy tales—all accompanied by a variety of interactive activities. But students don't have to wait until they finish the book to engage with these materials; they can do so at any point while studying the various chapters. For a “culture break,” they can dip into **Landeskunde zum Mitnehmen** and get some “culture to go.”

Deutsch: Na klar! consists of a preliminary chapter (**Einführung**), fourteen regular chapters, and a closing chapter (**Landeskunde zum Mitnehmen**, described above). Each of the fourteen regular chapters is developed around a major theme and has the following organization:

- ▶ Alles klar?
- ▶ Wörter im Kontext
Themen 1, 2, (3)

- ▶ Grammatik im Kontext
- ▶ Sprache im Kontext
Videoclips
Lesen
Zu guter Letzt
- ▶ Wortschatz
- ▶ Das kann ich nun!

Cultural collages (**Zwischenspiele**), containing visuals and activities, appear after **Kapitel 3, 6, 9, and 12** and give students the opportunity to review, consolidate, and apply what they have learned in previous chapters to cultural topics of German-speaking countries in new contexts.