Teaching guide: Grammar guide

For our new GCSE German specification (8662), students are required to use their knowledge of grammar as prescribed in the DFE Subject Content. This grammar list is also provided in the German specification.

Students are required to demonstrate both receptive and productive knowledge of the grammar (though the derivational morphology in the grammar list can only be included for Paper 3 Reading).

Students entering Higher tier assessments are required to apply all grammar listed for Foundation tier, in addition to the grammar listed for Higher tier.

This resource:

- supports you with preparing your students for the new exams
- focuses on the grammar requirements relating to verbs and the use of singular and plural forms at each tier
- summarises the requirements in relation to the different tenses at each tier.

We hope you find it useful.

Foundation tier

	Present tense • with simple meaning ('I do') • with ongoing meaning ('I am doing') • with time adverbs to express future meaning • in written texts to express past meaning (historic present)	Perfect tense • with simple past meaning ('I did') • with present perfect meaning ('I have done') • used with *früher* to give habitual meaning ('used to')	Future tense • with meaning 'will' + verb • with meaning 'be going to' + verb	Imperfect/ Simple past tense
Weak (regular) verbs	All persons, singular and plural	All persons, singular and plural (1) past participle is formed *ge—t* (2) verbs ending in *-ieren* whose past participles end in -t but do not take *ge-* (3) verbs with inseparable prefixes whose past participles end in *-t* but do not take ge- - be-: *ich habe besucht* - ent-: *ich habe mich entschuldigt* - er-: *ich habe erzählt* - über-: *ich habe übersetzt* - ver-: *ich habe versucht*	All persons, singular and plural	

	Present tense	Perfect tense	Future tense	Imperfect/ Simple past tense
Strong (semi-regular) verbs	All persons, singular and plural	All persons, singular and plural (1) past participle is formed ge- + infinitive: (2) inseparable verbs whose past participle is the same as the infinitive: be-: *ich habe bekommen* ent-: [no examples on Foundation tier (FT) vocabulary list] er-: [no examples on FT vocabulary list] ge-: *das hat mir gefallen* ver-: *ich habe vergessen* (3) past participle is formed with a vowel change, including verbs with inseparable prefixes: ei>ie: *ich bin geblieben* i>u: *ich habe gefunden* e>o: *ich habe gesprochen* ie>o: *ich bin geflogen* Other irregular past participles will be found on the FT vocabulary list (past participles of verbs with prefixes where the base past participle is listed will not be found on the FT vocabulary list)	All persons, singular and plural	

	Present tense	Perfect tense	Future tense	Imperfect/ Simple past tense
Irregular forms of four very high frequency verbs (irregular forms of these verbs are given in the vocabulary list)	All persons, singular and plural • *haben* • *sein* • *werden* • *wissen*			*haben* and *sein* only All persons singular and plural

Impersonal verbs	***es gibt*** ('there is/are') and ***es gab*** ('there was/were') are multi-word phrases listed in the FT vocabulary list. No other impersonal verbs.
Modal verbs	**Present tense**, all persons, singular and plural (followed by infinitive) *dürfen* *können* *mögen* *müssen* *sollen* *wollen* **Imperfect/simple past tense**, 1ˢᵗ/2ⁿᵈ/3ʳᵈ persons singular only *dürfen* *können* *mögen* *müssen* *sollen* *wollen*
Conditional mood	*möcht-*, all persons, singular and plural. Followed by noun or infinitive. No other conditional verb forms.
Reflexive verbs	All persons, singular and plural. Accusative reflexive pronouns only. Reflexive verbs with the same meaning as the listed base verb will not feature on the FT vocabulary list. If the reflexive verb has a different meaning from the listed base verb (eg *verstehen/sich verstehen*) both forms will be listed.

Higher tier

All of the Foundation tier grammar listed above, plus:

Present tense with seit	To mean 'have been + ing' for 'x time'
Imperfect / Simple Past tense	For written narrative use, all persons, singular and plural: **Weak verbs** **Highly frequent strong verbs**, where the 1st and 3rd person singular forms are listed on the Higher tier (HT) vocabulary list Example: *ich fuhr, du fuhrst, er/sie/es/man fuhr, wir fuhren, ihr fuhrt, sie/Sie fuhren* (verbs with prefixes where the base form is listed on the HT vocabulary list will not be listed; so, *versprach* is not listed because *sprach* is listed).
Imperative	2nd person, singular and plural, formal and informal, for weak and strong verbs and *sein*
Infinitive constructions	• *ohne... zu* • *statt... zu* • *um... zu* • verbs with *zu*
Passive voice avoidance using man	Example: *Man hat das Haus im Jahr 1976 gebaut.* ('The house was built in 1976'.)
Imperfect subjunctive in conditional clauses	All persons, singular and plural: • *haben (hätte)* • *sein (wäre)* • *würde* + infinitive

Modal verbs	Imperfect/simple past tense, all persons, singular and plural
	dürfen
	können
	mögen
	müssen
	sollen
	wollen
Reflexive verbs	All persons, singular and plural. Accusative and dative reflexive pronouns.