

INTRODUCTION

I have been learning various languages most of my life and teaching English to adults for over 15 years. Through this experience, I developed the Intuitive Language Learning series for German and English.

It is based on the simple idea that we don't start our communication thinking of grammar, but we start with the meaning we want to express. We have a certain communicative intention — we want to express our attitudes, reasons, degrees of certainty, and many others. These intentions are what I call **intended meanings**, and they're the foundation of this workbook.

A meaning is not a grammar rule or a vocabulary topic. Instead, it's the **communicative intention** behind what you say. *Here's a concrete example:* imagine you want to express that something is probably true, but you're not entirely certain. That's your intended meaning — a degree of certainty. German offers several ways to express this idea—some sound more cautious, others more confident. In this workbook, you'll discover which patterns carry which shades of certainty.

Other **examples of intended meanings** include: *describing facts and events, explaining reasons and consequences, expressing doubt or possibility, stating your viewpoint, or marking when you're inferring something rather than stating fact.* These meanings cross all topics and situations—whether you're talking about work, relationships, politics, or daily life.

Patterns may take many forms: separable verbs (stattfinden, sich abzeichnen), verb + prepositional phrases (Das spricht dafür, dass...), idioms and fixed expressions (Das bringt es mit sich, dass...), or other recurrent structures. What matters is not the grammatical category, but that they represent how meaning is actually conveyed in German.

How this workbook is organised

I've grouped related meanings into:

7 broad communication categories—such as *Describing Reality, Reasoning Processes, Causality, Attitudes and Viewpoints*, and others. Within each category, you'll find

31 communicative functions. For example, under *Reasoning Processes*, you might find subcategories for "expressing assumptions," "drawing inferences," and "reaching conclusions."

Each subcategory contains a table with three columns.

- **an intended meaning** or idea you want to express - this is the most specific meaning
- **a complete German sentence** showing how the pattern is used
- **an English translation** of the sentence

Here is one example from the Workbook, illustrating its Structure:

REASONING PROCESSES

1. Assumptions

Intended Meaning	German Pattern in a Sentence	English Translation
<i>It is assumed that ...</i>	Es lässt sich vermuten, dass die Nachfrage weiter steigen wird.	It can be assumed that demand will continue to rise.
<i>It presupposes that ...</i>	Das setzt voraus, dass alle mitmachen.	That presupposes that everyone participates.

How to use this workbook

- **Choose freely.** Pick one category, or jump to a subcategory that interests you right now. There's no special order you need to follow.
- **Less is more.** Only focus on one category at a time. Learn only 2-3 patterns well instead of spreading thin and not memorising or activating any of the patterns.
- **Read and notice.** Study the German sentences and observe how each pattern expresses the intended meaning. Use the English translation to verify your understanding.
- **Write your own sentences** using patterns relevant to your life—this is how they stick.
- **Extract the pattern separately.** I've deliberately embedded patterns within complete sentences rather than presenting them in an abstract form. If it's useful for you, extract these patterns and write them down. Many learners find this a valuable learning step.
- **Track and celebrate your progress!** Use the tracking sheet to mark your progress.

A note on prerequisites

This workbook is not a traditional grammar book. It assumes you already have solid working knowledge of German grammar and can manipulate grammatical structures across different tenses and forms. Think of it as supplementary material—a tool for organising the expressions and patterns you need to communicate with greater precision and nuance.