

GERMAN

Course Supplement

Basic Structures

Module 22

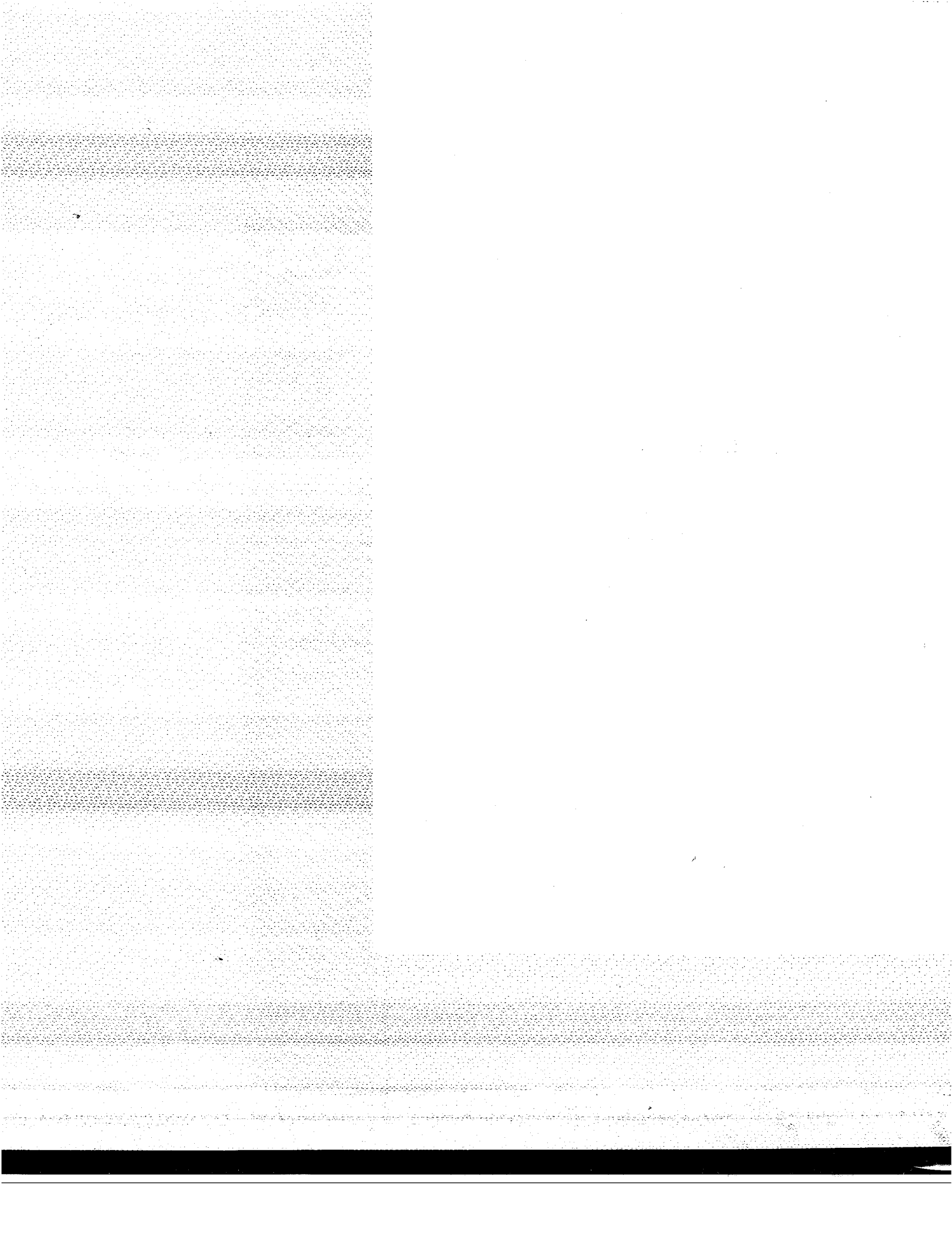
Transposed Word Order

Prerequisite Modules:

Modules 8, 20, 21

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DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE
FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER



Transposed Word Order

A pervasive characteristic of German grammar is the use of the so-called "transposed word order" in subordinate clauses. In this module, you will learn to form sentences containing various kinds of subordinate clauses, each of which requires transposed word order. The module is divided into the following sections:

1. Transposed Word Order after Subordinating Conjunctions
2. Transposed Word Order in Subordinate Clauses using Separable Prefix Verbs, Modal Auxiliary Verbs, Reflexive Constructions, and Present Perfect Tense
3. Transposed Word Order in Subordinate Clauses Following Question Words
4. Sentences Beginning with a Subordinate Clause.

Section 1

Transposed Word Order
after Subordinating Conjunctions

1. Transposed Word Order
after Subordinating Conjunctions

Notice the following English sentences:

He sees that the cup is on the table.

We are not going swimming because it is cold.

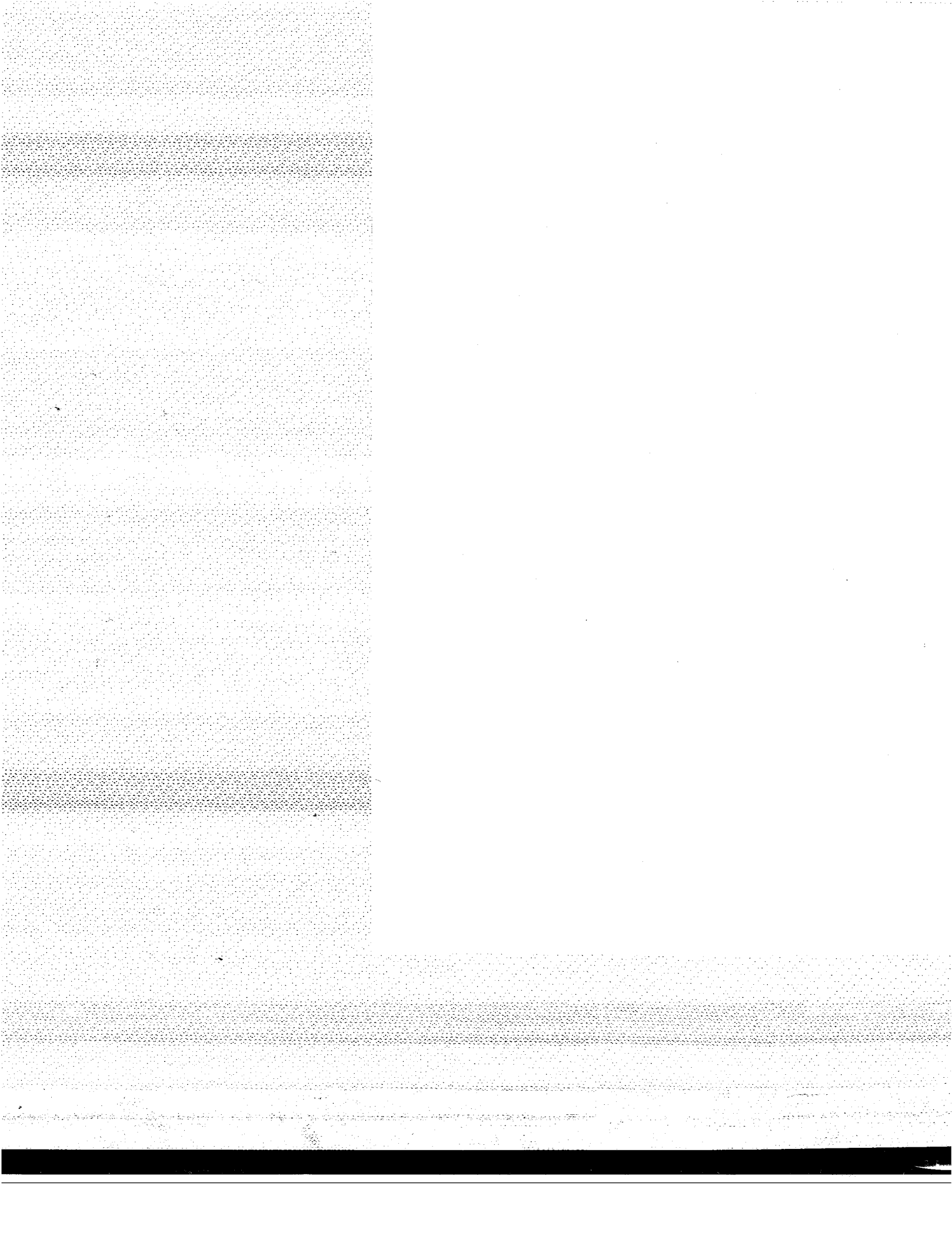
She goes into the restaurant while he parks the car.

The soldier leaves before the lieutenant arrives.

She asks if we speak French.

In each of the above sentences, the underlined group of words constitutes a subordinate clause which adds supplementary information to the main clause of the sentence. In the first sentence, "that the cup is on the table" (subordinate clause) tells what it is that "He sees" (main clause). In the second sentence, "because it is cold" (subordinate clause) explains why "we are not going swimming" (main clause).

Main clauses and subordinate clauses can also be distinguished from one another in that main clauses can stand as complete sentences: "He sees.", "We are not going swimming.", while subordinate clauses ("that the cup is on the table," "because it is cold") cannot stand in isolation as complete sentences.



For each of the following sentences, draw a double line under the main clause and a single line under the subordinate clause.

1. The student studies before he goes to the movie.
2. The class begins as soon as the bell rings.
3. I don't know if they are going to the beach.
4. She is waiting until the mail comes.
5. He thinks that the girl is pretty.

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

1. The student studies before he goes to the movie.
2. The class begins as soon as the bell rings.
3. I don't know if they are going to the beach.
4. She is waiting until the mail comes.
5. He thinks that the girl is pretty.

What is the grammatical name for the first element of the subordinate clauses in the above sentences (i.e., "before," "as soon as," "if," etc.)?

Each of these is called a subordinating conjunction because it joins a subordinate clause to the main clause.

One of the most typical and most pervasive aspects of German word order is the transposition of the conjugated (or inflected) verb in subordinate clauses. This simply means that in subordinate clauses (with a few exceptions to be discussed), the verb form which takes endings appropriate to its subject goes to the end of the clause. For example, consider the sentence:

Ich weiss, dass er morgen kommt.

(I know he is coming tomorrow.)

Say aloud the subordinate clause.

Within the subordinate clause, say the verb corresponding to the subject of the clause (er).

The conjugated verb kommt, which agrees with the subject of the clause, er, appears at the END of the clause, behind all the other clause elements. This placement rule applies regardless of the number or complexity of the other clause elements:

Ich weiss, dass er morgen kommt.

Ich weiss, dass er Freitag morgen kommt.

Ich weiss, dass er Freitag morgen um 10 Uhr kommt.

You should also note that subordinate clauses in German must use a subordinating conjunction, even though the corresponding English construction may omit the conjunction:

I know he is coming tomorrow.

BUT: Ich weiss, dass er morgen kommt.

In written German, a comma is always used to separate the main clause and the subordinate clause.

In this module, we will practice sentences using the subordinating conjunctions shown below. Repeat the German sentences, noticing the English translation of the conjunction and any special information on its use.

1. dass that

Der Lehrer sagt, dass er keine Zeit hat.

(The teacher says [that] he doesn't have any time.)

2. sobald as soon as

Ich rufe dich an, sobald ich nach Hause komme.

(I am going to call you as soon as I come home.)

3. damit so that

Ich schreibe Peter, damit er uns in Berlin besucht.

(I am writing Peter so that he will visit us in Berlin.)

4. obwohl although, though

Herr Meyer kauft sich kein anderes Haus, obwohl sein altes Haus zu klein ist.

(Mr. Meyer is not buying another house although his old house is too small.)

5. bevor before

Ingrid liest die Zeitung, bevor sie im Garten arbeitet.

(Ingrid reads the paper before she works in the garden.)

NOTE: bevor is a cognate of the English "before.")

6. seit [seitdem] since, [referring
ever since only to time]

Hans sieht besser aus, seitdem er nicht mehr raucht.

(Hans looks better since he stopped smoking.)

7. wenn when (in the sense of
whenever); if

Peter verabredet sich immer mit Ingrid, wenn er ins Kino geht.

(Peter always makes a date with Ingrid when he goes to the movies.)

Ich fahre nach Deutschland, wenn ich Geld habe.

(I will go to Germany if I have the money.)

NOTE: The use of wenn to mean "if" rather than "when(ever)" depends on sentence context. You should not be surprised to encounter wenn frequently in its "if" meaning, especially in the subjunctive mood (Module 39):

Ich würde ihn besuchen, wenn ich Zeit hätte.

(I would visit him if I had time.)

8. weil since (in the sense of
because)

9. da since (in the sense of
because)

Hans muss heute zu Hause bleiben, weil er krank ist.
(Hans has to stay at home today since he's sick.)

Heidi macht heute einen Spaziergang, da das Wetter schön ist.

(Heidi is taking a walk today since the weather is nice.)

NOTE: Weil and da are quite close in meaning, except that weil suggests a strong causal connection between the action expressed in the main and subordinate clauses. In the examples above, Hans must stay in bed as a necessary consequence of his illness (hence, weil). Heidi is going swimming since the weather is nice, but the state of the weather is not compelling her to do so (hence, da).

10. während while (referring only to
time)

Herr Müller wäscht sein Auto, während Frau Müller Briefe schreibt.

(Mr. Müller washes his car while Mrs. Müller writes letters.)

Study these subordinating conjunctions and their use until you feel you know them thoroughly, then turn the page for further exercises.

Listen to and repeat the following German sentences, then give the English meaning of the sentence.
For example:

You see and hear: Hans sagt, dass er sehr müde ist.

You repeat: Hans sagt, dass er sehr müde ist.

You say: Hans says that he is very tired.

1. Herr Müller trinkt ein Glas Milch, bevor er im Garten arbeitet.
2. Hans schreibt Inge, damit sie ihn nicht vergisst.
3. Ich rufe dich an, sobald ich Zeit habe.
4. Frau Müller trinkt den Kaffee nicht, weil er zu stark ist.
5. Herr Meyer fährt nie auf Urlaub, obwohl er sehr reich ist.
6. Ich spreche nicht mehr mit Peter, seit er eine neue Freundin hat.
7. Fritz ruft uns immer an, wenn er in Köln ist.
8. Herr Müller liest die Zeitung, während seine Frau das Essen macht.
9. Inge sagt, dass sie ein Buch braucht.
10. Der Soldat besucht seine Eltern, da er Urlaub hat.
11. Kauf mir eine Zeitschrift, wenn du in die Stadt fährst!

Fill in the appropriate subordinating conjunction and the subordinate clause verb on the basis of the given English.

1. I know that he is rich.

Ich weiss, _____ er reich _____.

2. Hans isn't visiting his friends although he has time.

Hans besucht seine Freunde nicht, _____ er
Zeit _____.

3. Mr. Meyer takes off his shoes as soon as he comes home.

Herr Meyer zieht sich die Schuhe aus, _____
er nach Hause _____.

4. She doesn't understand him whenever he speaks German.

Sie versteht ihn nicht, _____ er Deutsch
_____.

5. Mrs. Schmitt visits her neighbors while her husband works in the garden.

Frau Schmitt besucht ihre Nachbarn, _____
ihr Mann im Garten _____.

6. Mr. Schulz always buys a paper before he drives to work.

Herr Schulz kauft immer eine Zeitung, _____
er zur Arbeit _____.

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

_____ 1. dass ist

_____ 2. obwohl hat

_____ 3. sobald kommt

_____ 4. wenn spricht

_____ 5. während arbeitet

_____ 6. bevor fährt

TURN THE PAGE.

7. Franz can't eat at the restaurant because he doesn't have any money.

Franz kann nicht im Restaurant essen, _____
er kein Geld _____.

8. We are speaking loudly, so that they hear us.

Wir sprechen laut, _____ sie uns _____.

9. Inge and Peter don't write us anymore since they have been living in Berlin.

Inge und Peter schreiben uns nicht mehr,
_____ sie in Berlin _____.

10. He invites him to dinner since he knows him well.

Er lädt ihn zum Essen ein, _____ er ihn gut
_____.

11. I'll write him as soon as I find his address.

Ich schreibe ihm, _____ ich seine Adresse
_____.

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

_____ 7. weil hat

_____ 8. damit hören

_____ 9. seitdem wohnen

_____ 10. da kennt

_____ 11. sobald finde

START THE TAPE.

Say complete German sentences, supplying the subordinating conjunction and the appropriate form of the subordinate clause verb.

1. He greets her whenever he sees her.
Er grüsst sie immer, er sie
2. We are going to buy a new sofa as soon as we have enough money.
Wir kaufen ein neues Sofa, wir genug Geld
3. Put the book on the table so that he sees it!
Leg das Buch auf den Tisch, er es!
4. Robert speaks better German ever since he has been living in Germany.
Robert spricht besser Deutsch, er in Deutschland
5. The children are going home early today because their teacher is sick.
Die Kinder gehen heute früh nach Hause, ihr Lehrer krank
6. The gentleman runs fast although he is very old.
Der Herr läuft schnell, er sehr alt
7. Hans shaves while Peter makes breakfast.
Hans rasiert sich, Peter das Frühstück
8. The officer goes to the bank before he drives to Munich.
Der Offizier geht zur Bank, er nach München

9. Are you coming along if you have time?

Kommst du mit, du Zeit?

10. The soldier orders another beer because he likes it. (use schmecken)

Der Soldat bestellt sich noch ein Bier, es ihm

11. I know that he is already home.

Ich weiss, er schon zu Hause

Write the German, paying special attention to the subordinating conjunction and sentence word order.

1. We are not wearing coats since it is warm.

2. I believe he is tired.

3. He will call [use present tense] as soon as he comes home.

4. I don't see him often because he is working.

5. Mr. Meyer never goes out although he is very rich.

6. The officer speaks German well ever since he has been stationed in Germany.

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

1. Wir tragen keine Mäntel, da es warm ist.

2. Ich glaube, dass er müde ist.

3. Er ruft an, sobald er nach Hause kommt.

4. Ich sehe ihn nicht oft, weil er arbeitet.

5. Herr Meyer geht nie aus, obwohl er sehr reich ist.

6. Der Offizier spricht gut Deutsch, seit er in
Deutschland stationiert ist.

TURN THE PAGE.

7. We call them whenever we have time.

8. Ingrid is making a dress for herself while Maria reads a book.

9. Mr. Meyer is staying at home because he is sick.

10. I am coming if it doesn't rain.

11. Peter eats breakfast before he goes to work.

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

7. Wir rufen sie an, wenn wir Zeit haben.

8. Ingrid macht sich ein Kleid, während Maria ein Buch liest.

9. Herr Meyer bleibt zu Hause, weil er krank ist.

10. Ich komme, wenn es nicht regnet.

11. Peter frühstückt, bevor er zur Arbeit geht.

START THE TAPE.

Section 2

Transposed Word Order in Subordinate Clauses
using Separable Prefix Verbs, Modal Auxiliary Verbs,
Reflexive Constructions, and Present Perfect Tense

2. Transposed Word Order in Subordinate Clauses
using Separable Prefix Verbs, Modal Auxiliary Verbs,
Reflexive Constructions, and Present Perfect Tense

Word order in subordinate clauses using separable prefix verbs follows the same rule that you have practiced in the preceding exercises. How would you say

"She is going out tomorrow night,"

using the separable prefix verb ausgehen?

(Note: This is a regular sentence pattern, not a subordinate clause.)

You would say:

Sie geht morgen abend aus.

putting the separable prefix at the end of the sentence.

Now consider how you would say the German equivalent of "I know that she is going out tomorrow night." The question is that of the proper word order following:

Ich weiss, dass sie

In the preceding pages, you learned that in subordinate clauses the conjugated verb moves to the end of the clause. This is true of separable prefix verbs, with the minor additional factor that the separable prefix also remains at the end of the clause (as you would expect), and is affixed to the front of the inflected verb:

Ich weiss, dass sie morgen abend ausgeht.

How would you say:

"She says that she is bringing along the books."

using the separable prefix verb mitbringen?

You would say:

Sie sagt, dass sie die Bücher mitbringt.

Word order in subordinate clauses using reflexive verbs demonstrates the same "conjugated-verb-at-the-end-of-the-clause" principle. The reflexive pronoun itself does not move from the regular sentence position. For example:

Frau Meyer unterhält sich mit dem Nachbarn.

Ich sehe, dass Frau Meyer sich mit dem Nachbarn
unterhält.

or reflexive constructions with separable prefix verbs:

Paul schenkt sich ein Glas Wein ein.

Heidi redet, während Paul sich ein Glas Wein
einschenkt.

Write a subordinate clause to complete the German sentence on the basis of the given English. Use the separable prefix verb in parentheses, as well as the appropriate subordinating conjunction.

1. Hans shaves before he leaves. (abfahren)

Hans rasiert sich, _____.

2. Give him the address so that he can write [writes] it down! (aufschreiben)

Gib ihm die Adresse, _____!

3. We are taking Hans along, since he knows his way around Munich. (sich zurechtfinden)

Wir nehmen Hans mit, _____.

4. Ingrid is never ready when I pick her up. (abholen)

Ingrid ist nie fertig, _____.

5. Karl makes breakfast while Peter gets dressed. (sich anziehen)

Karl macht das Frühstück, _____.

6. I think they are building themselves a house. (sich bauen)

Ich glaube, _____.

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

_____ 1. bevor er abfährt

_____ 2. damit er sie
aufschreibt

_____ 3. weil er sich in
München zurechtfindet
(or da)

_____ 4. wenn ich sie abhole

_____ 5. während Peter sich
anzieht

_____ 6. dass sie sich ein Haus
bauen

START THE TAPE.

Say complete German sentences, using the verb in parentheses, as well as the appropriate subordinating conjunction.

1. Maria looks much better ever since she has been wearing elegant dresses. (anhaben)
Maria sieht viel besser aus,
2. Inge believes that Hans is coming along. (mitkommen)
Inge glaubt,
3. Heidi likes the new student because he looks good. (aussehen)
Der neue Schüler gefällt Heidi,
4. I am staying home if Franz takes his dog along. (mitnehmen)
Ich bleibe zu Hause,
5. The children get dressed as soon as they get up. (aufstehen)
Die Kinder ziehen sich an,
6. Inge goes shopping while Peter looks at the new cars. [use Auto] (sich ansehen)
Inge geht einkaufen,

Modal auxiliary verbs in subordinate clauses should pose no difficulty if you remember that the conjugated verb goes to the end of the clause, with other sentence elements remaining unchanged. Consider the following sentence:

Ich muss nach Hause gehen.

What is the conjugated verb in this sentence?

How would you say:

"I know I have to go home."

using the modal auxiliary müssen?

You would say:

Ich weiss, dass ich nach Hause gehen muss.

Subordinate clauses containing both a modal auxiliary and a separable prefix verb have the following pattern:

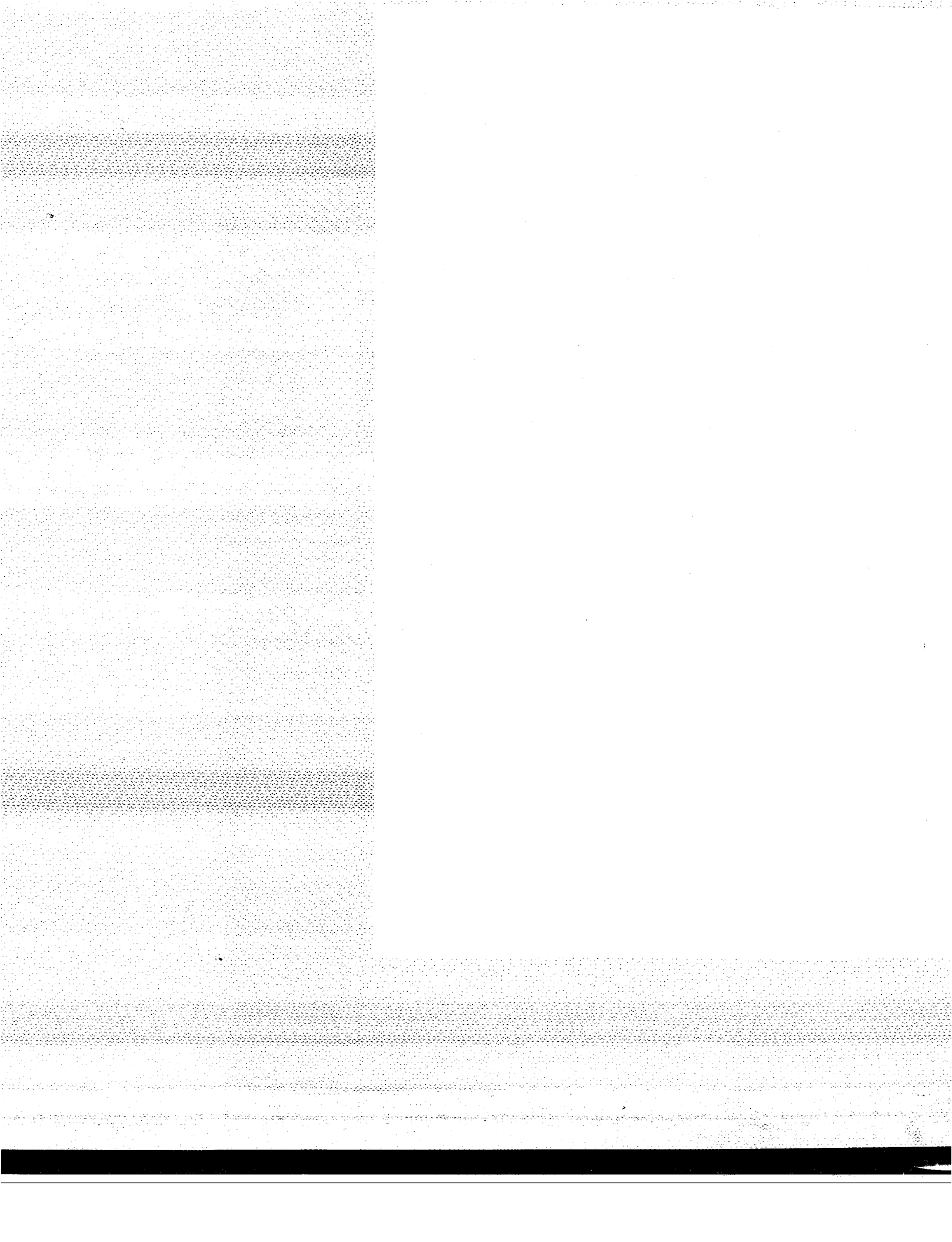
Regular sentence order:

Heidi muss heute abend ausgehen.

Subordinate clause order:

Ich weiss, dass Heidi heute abend ausgehen muss.

Here again, the overall word order pattern for subordinate clauses applies: conjugated verb at the end of the clause, other sentence elements unchanged.



Complete the German sentences on the basis of the given English, using the verbs shown in parentheses.

1. Tell Hans that he may write to me! (dürfen; schreiben)
Sag Hans, _____!

2. The children are angry because they have to stay home. (müssen; bleiben)

Die Kinder sind böse, _____.

3. Karl has to make a phone call before he can go out. (können; ausgehen)

Karl muss telefonieren, _____.

4. He tells them that they are supposed to stay in Cologne. (sollen; bleiben)

Er sagt ihnen, _____.

5. She doesn't invite Paul, although he would like to come. (möchten; kommen)

Sie lädt Paul nicht ein, _____.

6. Go and get the children so that we can eat. (können; essen)

Hol die Kinder, _____!

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

_____ 1. dass er mir schreiben darf

_____ 2. weil sie zu Hause bleiben müssen

_____ 3. bevor er ausgehen kann

_____ 4. dass sie in Köln bleiben sollen

_____ 5. obwohl er gern kommen möchte

_____ 6. damit wir essen können

START THE TAPE.

Say complete German sentences on the basis of the given English. Use the verbs shown in parentheses.

1. He is looking bad ever since he has to work in the city. (müssen; arbeiten)
Er sieht schlecht aus,
2. They live in an apartment because they don't want to buy a house. (wollen; kaufen)
Sie wohnen in einer Wohnung,
3. Bring your friend if he is allowed to come along. (dürfen; mitkommen)
Bring deinen Freund,
4. He has himself picked up ever since he cannot walk well any more. (können; gehen)
Er lässt sich abholen,
5. Heidi is going dancing as soon as she is allowed to go out. (dürfen; ausgehen)
Heidi geht tanzen,
6. She is never home when he wants to talk to her. (möchten; sprechen)
Sie ist nie zu Hause,
7. We are learning German so that we can study in Germany. (können; studieren)
Wir lernen Deutsch,

All of the sentences in the preceding exercises were in the present tense. It is of course also possible to use subordinate clauses with other tenses, such as the present perfect tense which you studied in Modules 20 and 21.

You will remember that the present perfect tense is formed by using the appropriate form of the auxiliary verb haben (or in some cases, sein), together with the past participle of the main verb:

Er hat eine Zeitung gekauft.

(He bought a newspaper.)

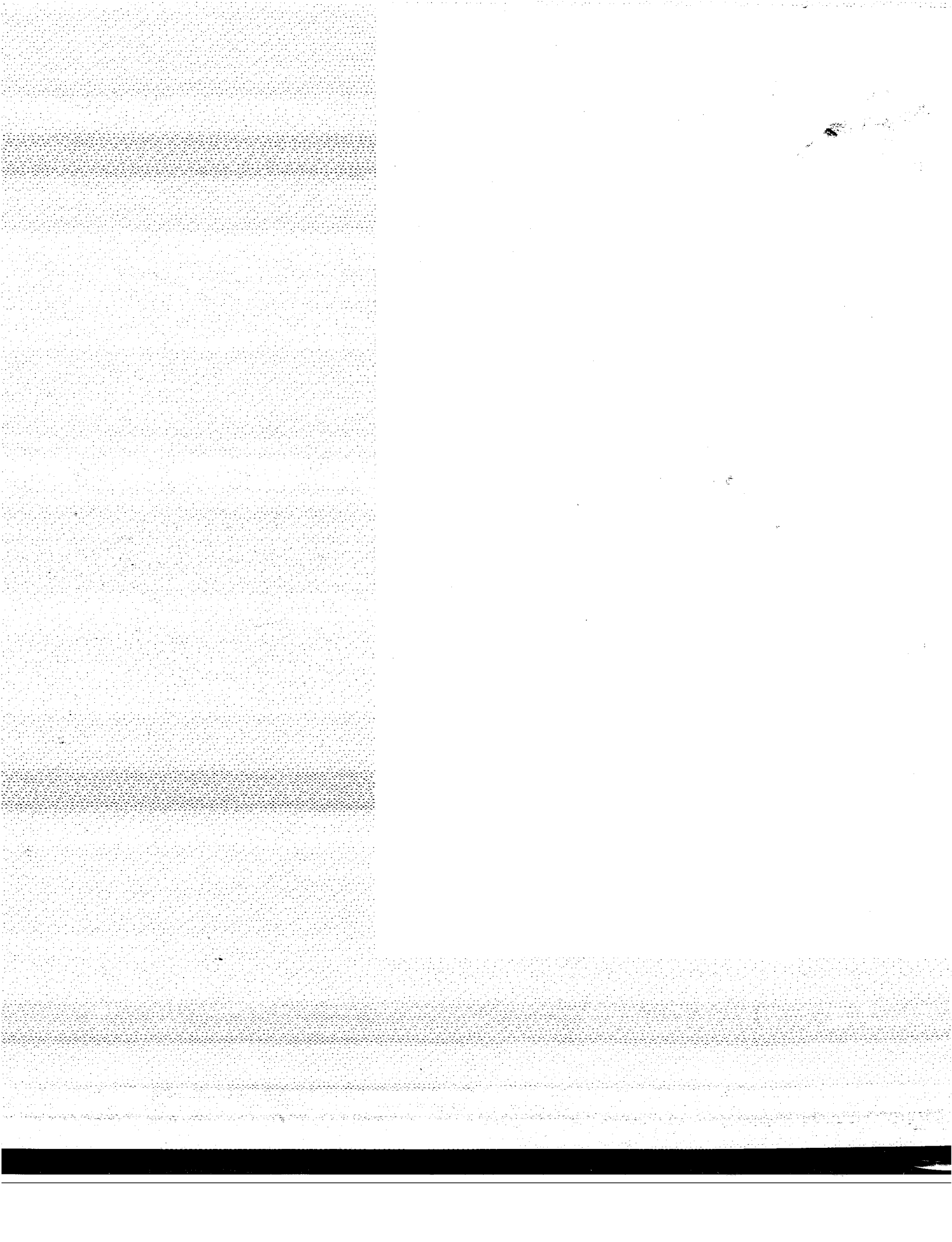
In the above sentence, what is the **conjugated** verb?

With this clue in mind, and remembering the general rule for subordinate clause word order, what is the German equivalent of:

I know he bought a newspaper.

Ich weiss, dass er eine Zeitung gekauft hat.

Now turn the page for further exercises.



Complete the German sentences on the basis of the given English, using the present perfect tense of the verbs in parentheses.

1. The students fly to Germany after they have learned German. (lernen)
[use the conjunction nachdem; see note below*]

Die Schüler fliegen nach Deutschland, _____.

2. She is angry at Hans because he stayed home. (bleiben)

Sie ist böse auf Hans, _____.

3. The children played in the garden while their parents worked. (arbeiten)

Die Kinder haben im Garten gespielt, _____

4. Mr. Meyer has no money, ever since he bought the big house. (kaufen)

Herr Meyer hat kein Geld, _____.

5. Please call me as soon as he has left! (abfahren)

Ruf mich bitte an, _____!

6. Did you see them before they went to Berlin? (fahren)

Habt ihr sie gesehen, _____?

7. Karl tells me that he studied in Munich. (studieren)

Karl sagt mir, _____.

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

*Nachdem ("after") is used only in past tense constructions. For this reason, it is introduced here rather than in earlier exercises.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

_____ 1. nachdem sie Deutsch
gelernt haben

_____ 2. weil er zu Hause ge-
blieben ist

_____ 3. während ihre Eltern ge-
arbeitet haben

_____ 4. seitdem er das grosse
Haus gekauft hat

_____ 5. sobald er abgefahren
ist

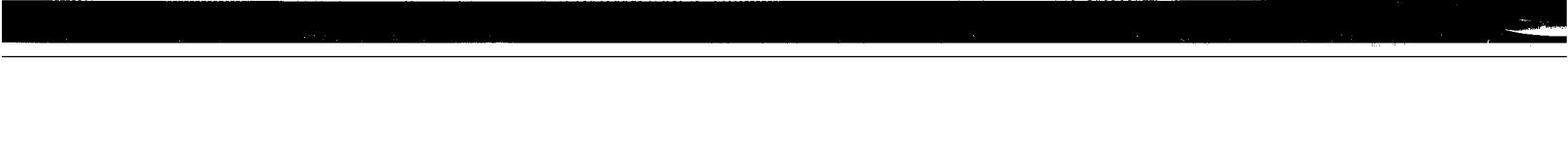
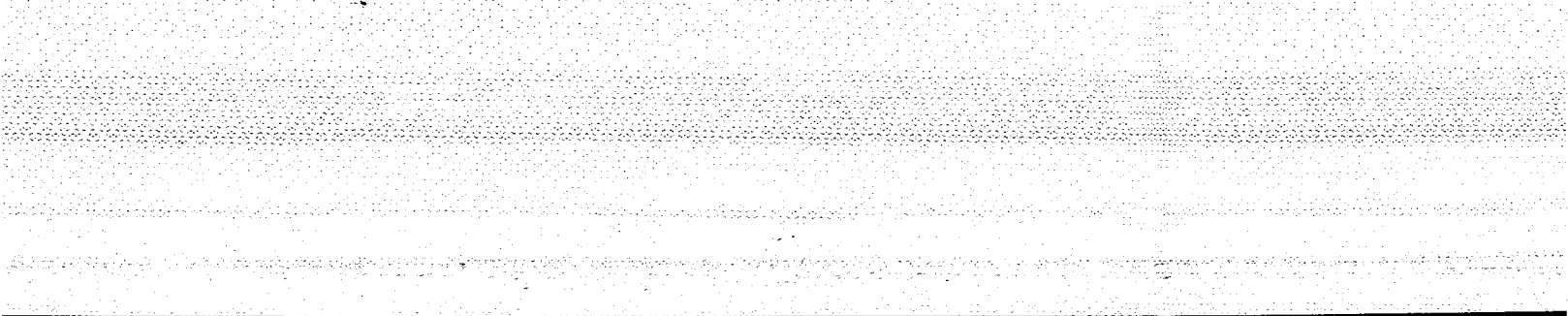
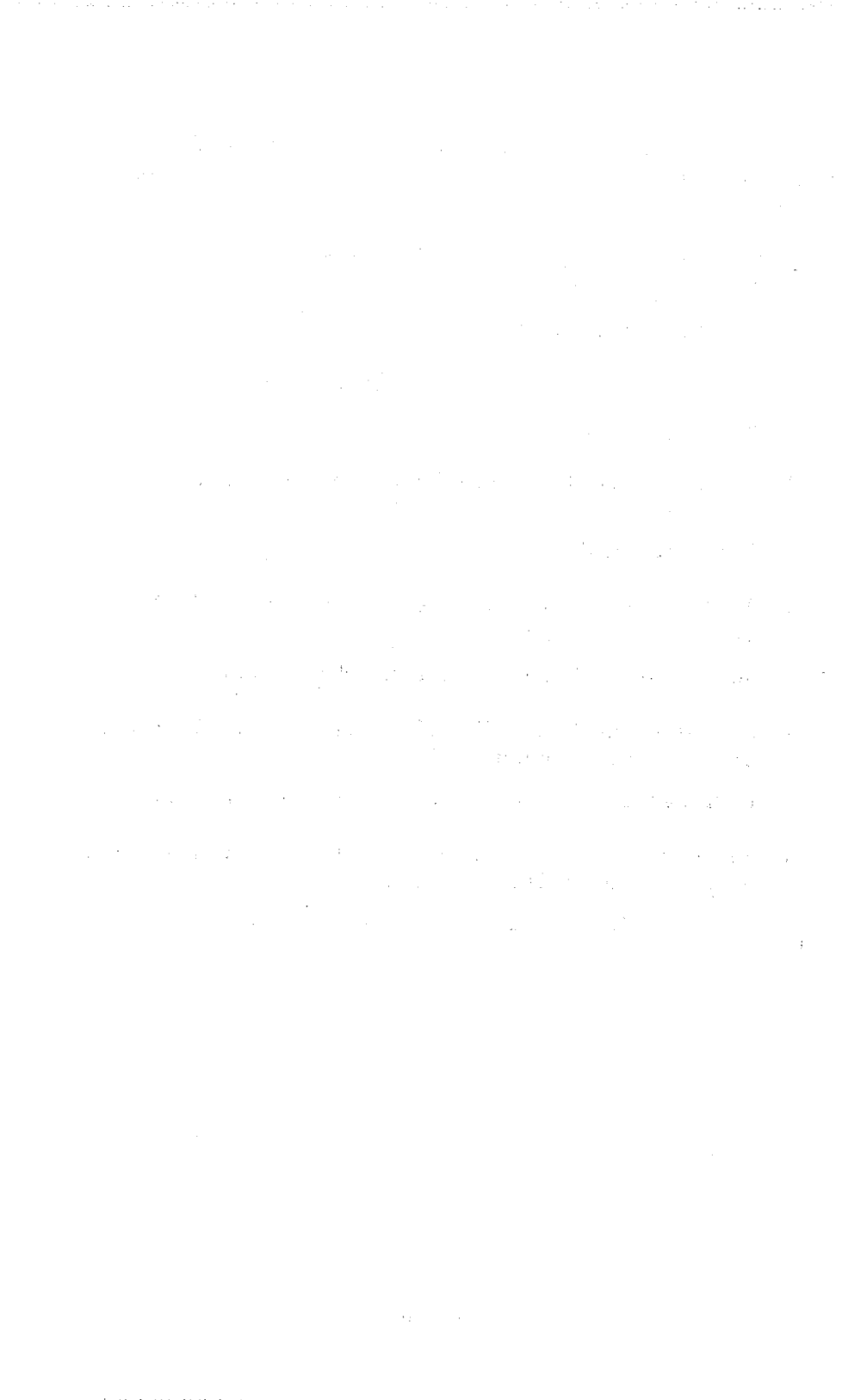
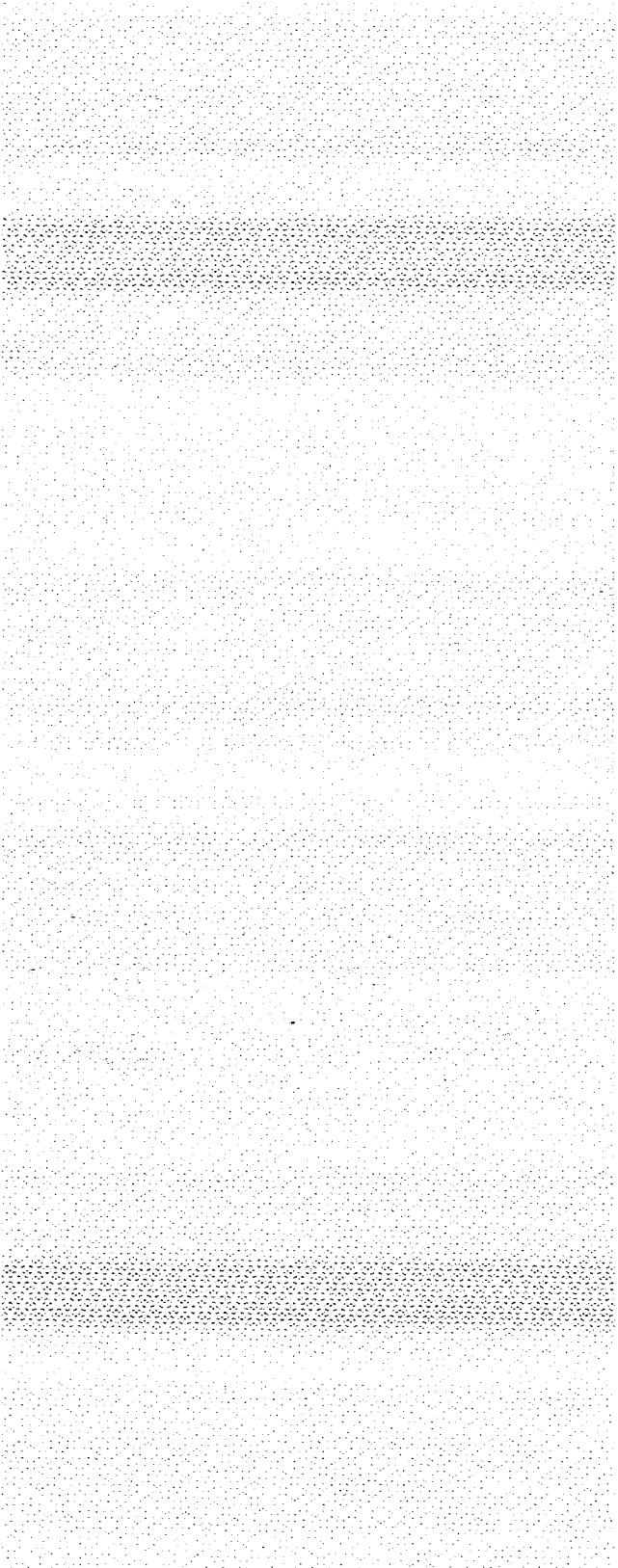
_____ 6. bevor sie nach Berlin
gefahren sind

_____ 7. dass er in München
studiert hat

START THE TAPE.

Say complete German sentences on the basis of the given English, using the present perfect tense of the verbs in parentheses.

1. He takes a trip after he bought the car.
[use Auto] (kaufen)
Er macht eine Reise,
2. She says that he has been sick. (sein)
Sie sagt,
3. Franz is tired because he played football.
(spielen)
Franz ist müde,
4. Heidi drove home early because her friend [fem.]
didn't come. (kommen)
Heidi ist früh nach Hause gefahren,
5. Mr. Meyer took a walk while his wife visited her
girl friend. (besuchen)
Herr Meyer hat einen Spaziergang gemacht,
6. He doesn't like the new car although he just (use
gerade) bought it. (kaufen)
Das neue Auto gefällt ihm nicht,



The following two exercises include all the subordinate clause patterns you have learned in this section. Write the appropriate subordinate clause on the basis of the given English. Note that different types of verbs are used (reflexives, modal auxiliaries, etc.) as well as present and present perfect tenses.

1. We are not going to the beach because it is too cold. (sein)

Wir gehen nicht an den Strand, _____.

2. Are you going to write to me as soon as you come back from Berlin? (zurückkommen)

Schreibst du mir, _____?

3. He sold his car after he repaired it. (reparieren)

Er hat sein Auto verkauft, _____.

4. Hans wants to go out with you if you have time. (haben)

Hans will mit dir ausgehen, _____.

5. Peter is buying himself a city map because he doesn't know the town. (kennen)

Peter kauft sich einen Stadtplan, _____.

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

_____ 1. da es zu kalt ist

_____ 2. sobald du von Berlin
zurückkommst

_____ 3. nachdem er es repariert
hat

_____ 4. wenn du Zeit hast

_____ 5. weil (or da) er die
Stadt nicht kennt

TURN THE PAGE.

6. They are drinking coffee while they converse.
(sich unterhalten)

Sie trinken Kaffee, _____.

7. Tell him that he must come tonight!

Sag ihm, _____!

8. Peter eats breakfast before he shaves.
(sich rasieren)

Peter frühstückt, _____.

9. They always go for a walk after they have eaten.
(essen)

Sie gehen immer spazieren, _____.

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

_____ 6. während sie sich unterhalten

_____ 7. dass er heute abend kommen muss

_____ 8. bevor er sich rasiert

_____ 9. nachdem sie gegessen haben

START THE TAPE.

Say complete German sentences on the basis of the given English. Use the verbs shown in parentheses.

1. He doesn't visit us although he has time. (haben)
Er besucht uns nicht,
2. She is never ready when he picks her up.
(abholen)
Sie ist nie fertig,
3. He can find his way around town ever since he bought a city map. (kaufen)
Er findet sich in der Stadt zurecht,
4. Tell them they are allowed to bring the children along! (dürfen - mitbringen)
Sagen Sie ihnen,!
5. Hans intends to sell his sports car as soon as he finds a new one. (finden)
Hans will seinen Sportwagen verkaufen,
6. Mrs. Meyer is not inviting Mrs. Müller because she doesn't know her well. (kennen)
Frau Meyer lädt Frau Müller nicht ein,
7. Mr. Müller goes to the movies while Mrs. Müller buys herself a new dress. (sich kaufen)
Herr Müller geht ins Kino,



Section 3

Transposed Word Order in
Subordinate Clauses Following Question Words

3. Transposed Word Order in Subordinate Clauses Following Question Words

Consider the following sentences:

1. Führt Karl nach Deutschland?
(Is Karl going to Germany?)
2. Wann fährt Karl nach Deutschland?
(When is Karl going to Germany?)

You are familiar with the word order in the first German sentence above. This is simply the transformation of a declarative sentence (Karl fährt nach Deutschland) into an interrogative sentence by inverting the position of subject and verb:

Führt Karl nach Deutschland?

If so-called "question words," such as wann ("when"), warum ("why"), wo ("where"), was ("what"), and wer ("who") are added, they do not affect the inverted word order you have already learned for questions:

Führt Karl nach Deutschland?

Wann fährt Karl nach Deutschland?

When such questions as Wann fährt Karl nach Deutschland? are preceded by certain commonly-used expressions such as:

Wissen Sie ("do you know")

Können Sie mir sagen ("can you tell me")

Darf ich fragen ("may I ask")

Ich möchte wissen ("I'd like to know")

the following clause becomes subordinate and must thus use the transposed word order common to subordinate clauses.

Consider the question:

Wann fährt Karl nach Deutschland?

If it were to be preceded by Wissen Sie, how would the word order be changed? As you know, the inflected verb (in this example, fährt) would be placed at the end of the clause, with other clause elements remaining unchanged.

Say a sentence combining

Wissen Sie and Wann fährt Karl nach Deutschland?,

using the necessary subordinate clause word order.

The correct answer would be:

Wissen Sie, wann Karl nach Deutschland fährt?
(Do you know when Karl is going to Germany?)

Note that the written German sentence uses a comma to separate the main clause (Wissen Sie) from the subordinate clause, as you remember from preceding exercises. If the main clause is itself a question (as for example, Wissen Sie, Darf ich fragen), the combined sentence uses a question mark:

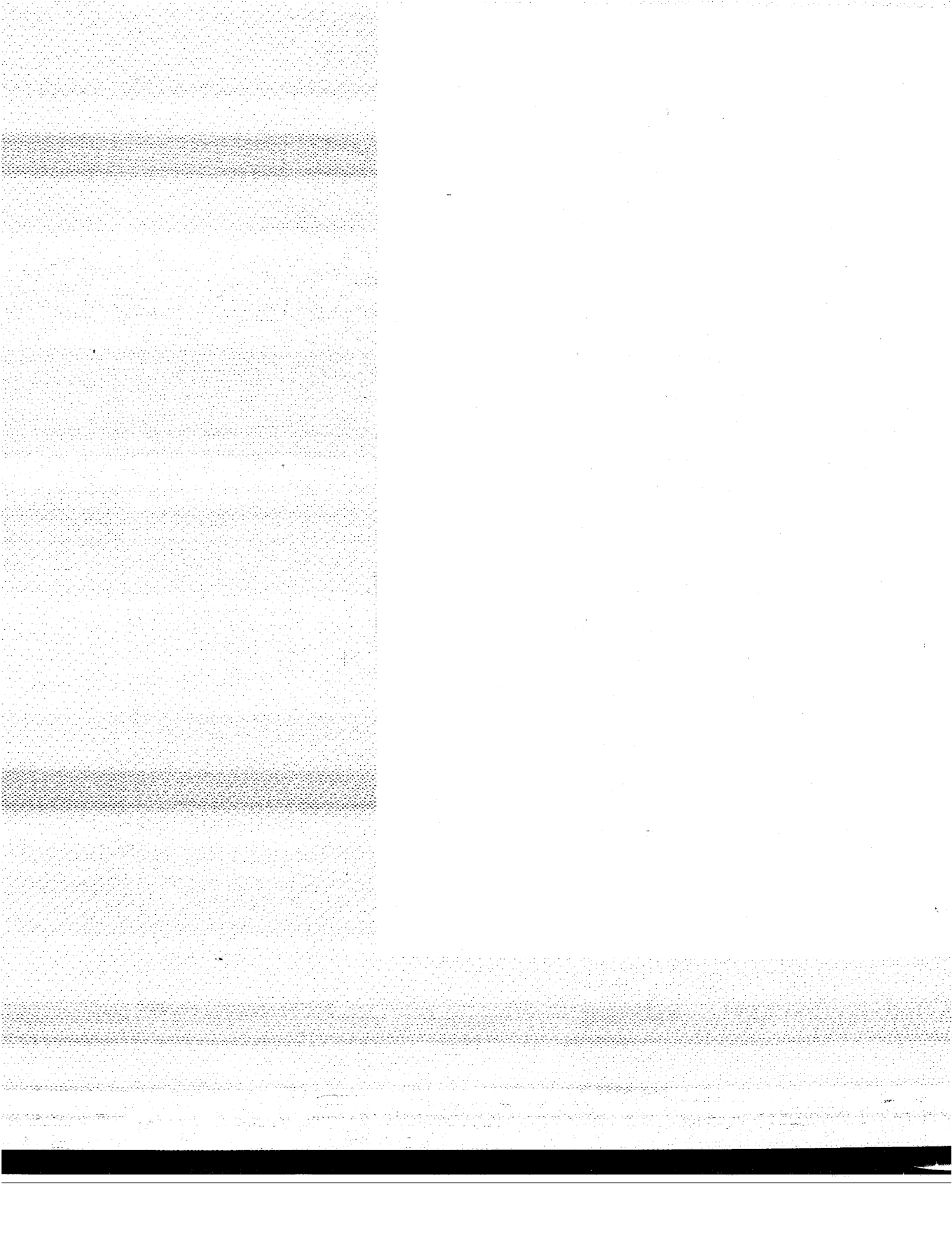
Darf ich fragen, wo Sie wohnen?
(May I ask where you live?)

If the main clause is not a question (for example, Ich möchte wissen), the combined sentence does not use a question mark:

Ich möchte wissen, warum er das macht.
(I'd like to know why he's doing that.)

Listen to and repeat the following German sentences, noticing the English translation. You will note that separable prefix verbs, modal auxiliary verbs, and both present and present perfect tenses are used in the subordinate clause. In all cases, the general subordinate clause word order applies: conjugated verb at the end of the clause, other sentence elements unchanged.

1. Weisst du, wann Peter kommt?
(Do you know when Peter is coming?)
2. Können Sie mir sagen, wann Inge nach Köln fährt?
(Can you tell me when Inge is going to Cologne?)
3. Ich möchte wissen, was ihm passiert ist.
(I would like to know what happened to him.)
4. Darf ich fragen, was er **machen will**?
(May I ask what he intends to do?)
5. Ich möchte wissen, wann Herr Meyer sich das neue Auto kauft.
(I would like to know when Mr. Meyer is going to buy the new car.)
6. Wissen Sie, warum Dr. Schulz **abfährt**?
(Do you know why Dr. Schulz is leaving?)
7. Kannst du mir sagen, wo du diesen warmen Mantel gekauft hast?
(Can you tell me where you bought that warm coat?)
8. Wissen Sie, warum er morgen abend nach München fährt?
(Do you know why he is going to Munich tomorrow?)



Write complete German sentences on the basis of the given English.

1. Do you [formal] know when he is going to the movies?

_____ ?

2. May I ask why Heidi didn't come?

_____ ?

3. They would like to know where he lives.

_____ .

4. Can you [fam., sing.] tell me why Hans doesn't want to write?

_____ ?

5. Do you [formal] know what he has brought along?

_____ ?

6. I would like to know where Inge bought the book.

_____ .

7. May I ask when they are meeting each other?
(use sich treffen)

_____ ?

TURN THE PAGE AND CHECK YOUR ANSWERS.

If you made any mistakes, write the correct German.

1. Wissen Sie, wann er ins Kino geht?

2. Darf ich fragen, warum Heidi nicht gekommen ist?

3. Sie möchten wissen, wo er wohnt.

4. Kannst du mir sagen, warum Hans nicht schreiben will?

5. Wissen Sie, was er mitgebracht hat?

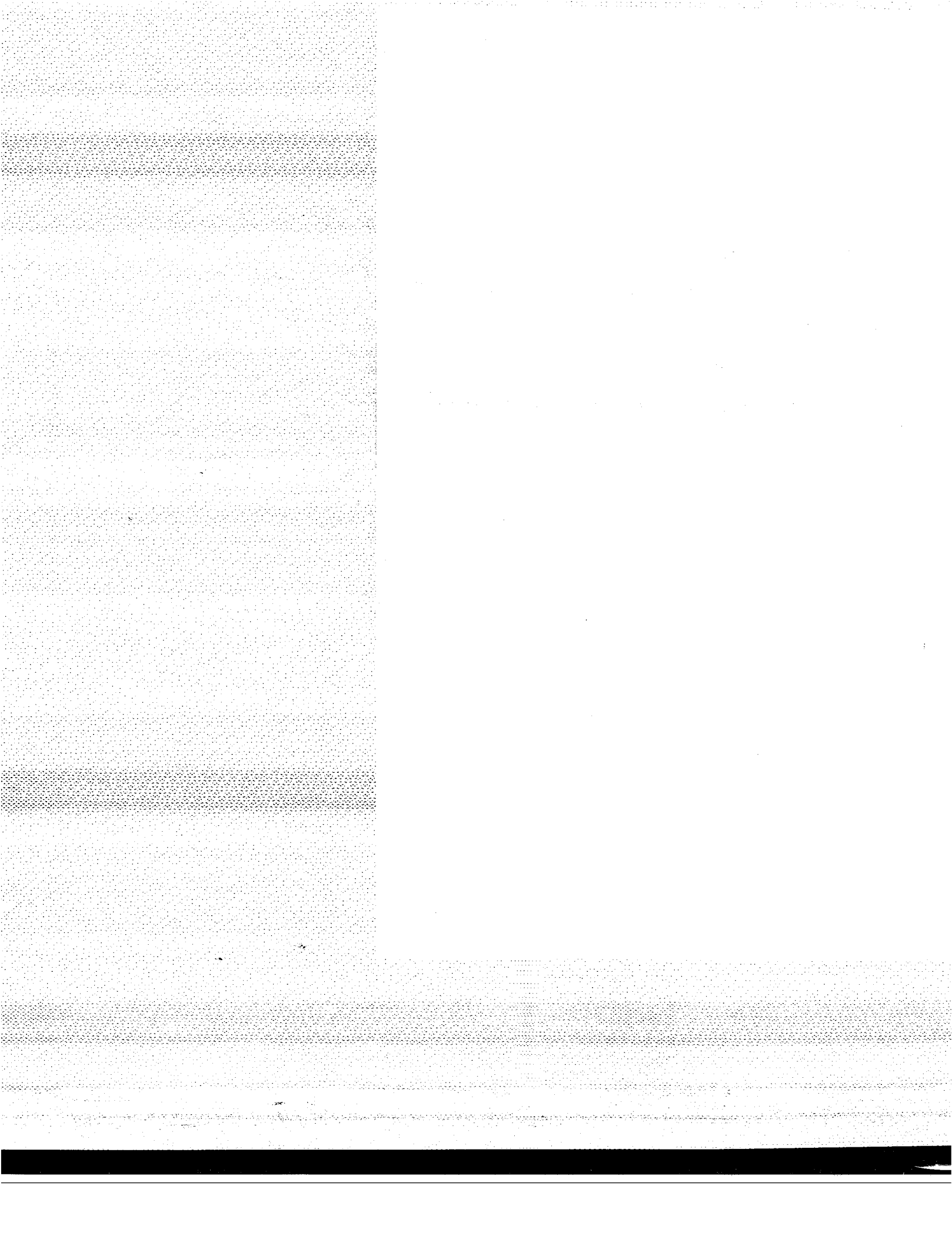
6. Ich möchte gern wissen, wo Inge das Buch gekauft hat.

7. Darf ich fragen, wann sie sich treffen?

START THE TAPE.

Say complete German sentences on the basis of the given English.

1. Can you [fam. sing.] tell me when the train is leaving?
2. May I ask where you [formal] bought **that** coat?
3. I would like to know why he doesn't write.
4. Do you [formal] know when Mr. Meyer sold his house?
5. Can you [formal] tell us where Hans has been?
6. We would like to know what they said.
7. May I ask why you [fam. plur.] don't get dressed?



Section 4

Sentences Beginning with a Subordinate Clause

4. Sentences Beginning with a Subordinate Clause

In all the preceding exercises, you practiced sentences in which the subordinate clause followed the main clause, for example:

Main Clause

Subordinate Clause

Er kann nicht kommen, weil er krank ist.

(He can't come because he's sick.)

It is also possible for subordinate clauses to begin a sentence, with the main clause following:

Subordinate Clause

Main Clause

Weil er krank ist, kann er nicht kommen.

(Because he's sick, he can't come.)

What do you notice about the word order in the main clause of the second German sentence, by comparison to the word order of the main clause in the first sentence?

In the main clause of the second sentence, the subject and verb are inverted, that is to say, the subject is placed behind the verb rather than in front of it as is normally the case. You have already encountered this phenomenon in sentences such as:

Heute geht er in die Stadt.

in which the presence of the adverbial expression heute at the beginning of the sentence produces inverted word order for the subject and verb.

When subordinate clauses precede the main clause of a sentence, they "trigger" subject-verb inversion in the main clause in the same manner. You should note that the subordinate clause itself is not changed in any way from the form it would have if it followed the main clause.

There is one caution to observe, as illustrated by the following example:

Peter kauft eine Zeitung, bevor er zur Arbeit geht.
(Peter buys a newspaper before he goes to work.)

If the subordinate clause were placed at the beginning of the sentence, we would have:

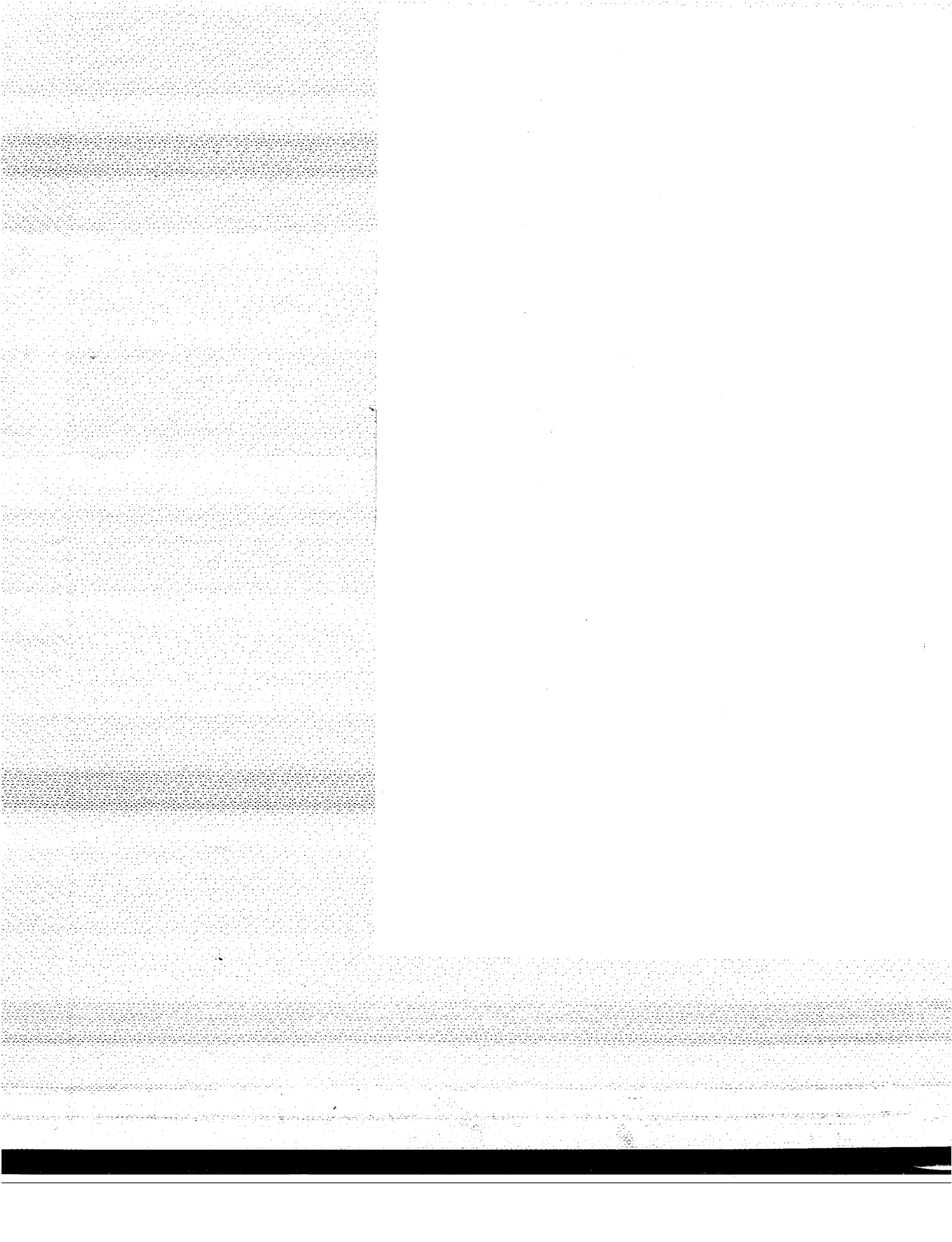
(*)Bevor er zur Arbeit geht, kauft Peter eine Zeitung.
(Before he goes to work, Peter buys a newspaper.)

Although the above sentence is grammatically correct, there is a strong tendency in German to identify the subject by name in the first clause of the sentence, rather than in a later portion of the sentence. In this way, the listener or reader is more immediately aware of the person or thing under discussion. This applies to all noun subjects, including both proper names (Peter, Frau Schmidt) and common nouns (das Auto, der Anzug, die Adresse). Normally, the sentence above would be phrased like this:

Bevor Peter zur Arbeit geht, kauft er eine Zeitung.
(Before Peter goes to work, he buys a newspaper.)

Say rephrased sentences, so that the subordinate clause is in the beginning. Remember the caution about nouns and make the necessary noun/pronoun adjustment.

1. Er holt mich ab, wenn er Zeit hat.
2. Die Kinder gehen zu Bett, nachdem sie sich gewaschen haben.
3. Hans geht heute abend nicht ins Kino, da er keine Zeit hat.
4. Ich kaufe mir einen Porsche, sobald ich Geld habe.
5. Peter fährt dieses Jahr nach Amerika, während Franz nach Italien fährt.
6. Sie essen oft in diesem Restaurant, seitdem sie in der Stadt wohnen.
7. Franz ist doch gekommen, obwohl er nicht eingeladen war.
8. Sie schickt ihm immer Blumen, wenn er krank ist.
9. Ich habe nicht gewusst, dass Peter Soldat ist.



Module 22

Test

22-58

Test

Say complete German sentences on the basis of the given English. Use the verbs in parentheses.

1. Hans stayed home last night because there was nothing going on in town. (los sein)
Hans ist gestern abend zu Hause geblieben,
2. The children must wash themselves before they are allowed to eat. (dürfen - essen)
Die Kinder müssen sich waschen,
3. Mr. Meyer is taking his money to the bank after he has sold his house. (verkaufen)
Herr Meyer bringt sein Geld auf die Bank,
4. She says that Karl has flown to Germany. (fliegen)
Sie sagt,
5. Hans doesn't smoke any more ever since he was sick. (sein)
Hans raucht nicht mehr,
6. She still writes to me although we haven't seen each other for a long time. (sich sehen)
Sie schreibt mir immer noch,

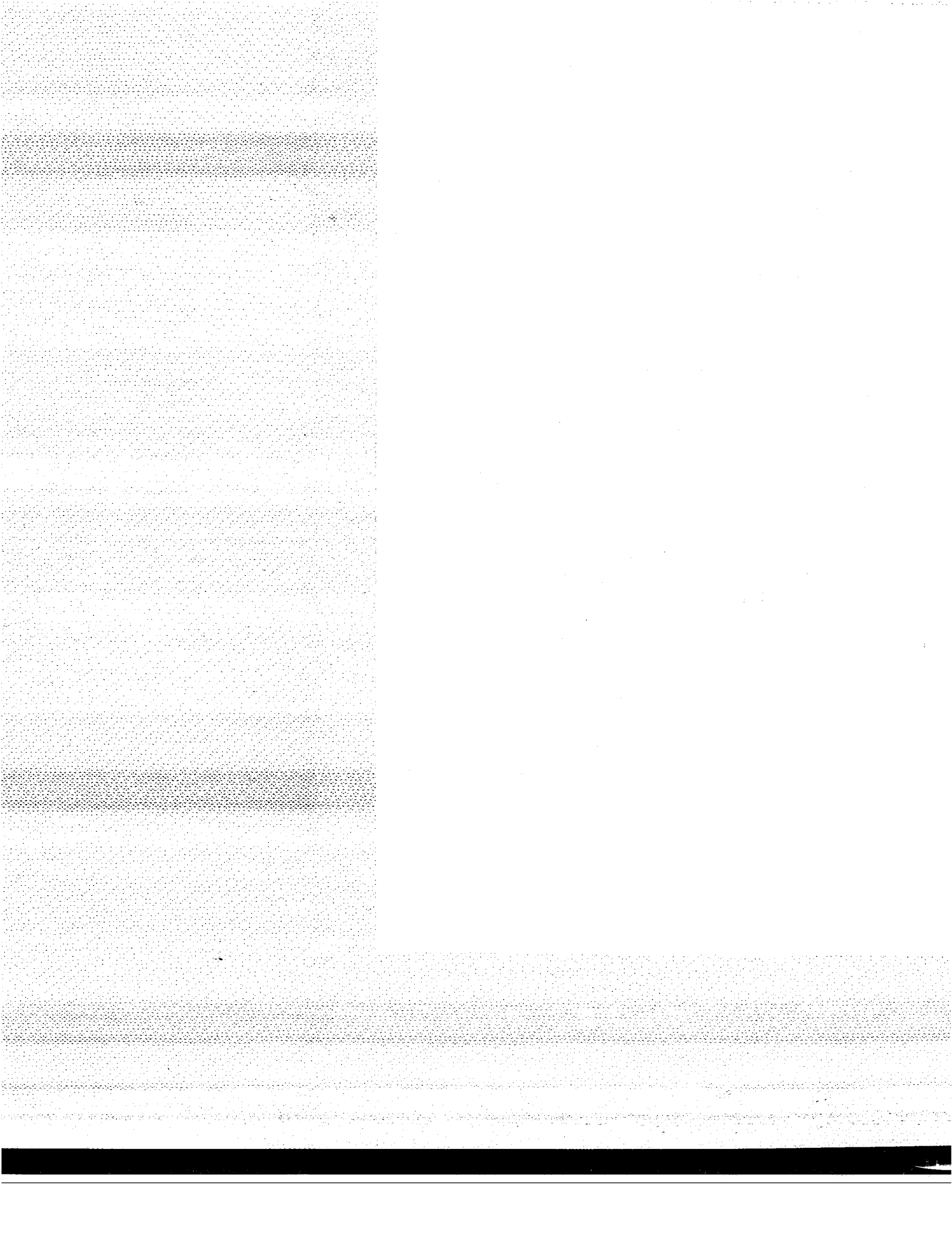
7. Look at the menu so that we can eat!
(können - essen)
Sieh dir die Speisekarte an,!
8. He is coming as soon as he has time. (haben)
Er kommt,
9. Maria visits her sister whenever she is in
Berlin. (sein)
Maria besucht ihre Schwester,
10. Mr. Meyer takes a walk while his wife visits her
girl friend. (besuchen)
Herr Meyer macht einen Spaziergang,
11. Karl doesn't want to go dancing if you [fam. sing]
don't bring Inge along. (mitbringen)
Karl will nicht tanzen gehen,

Say complete German sentences on the basis of the given English, using the verbs shown in parentheses.

1. I would like to know where I can buy a suit.
(können - kaufen)
Ich möchte wissen,
2. Can you tell me why they don't write? (schreiben)
Kannst du mir sagen,
3. May I ask when you [formal] are going to visit us? (besuchen)
Darf ich fragen,
4. Do you know what Peter is doing tonight? (machen)
Weisst du,?
5. Can you tell me why he is not at home? (sein)
Können Sie mir sagen,?

Say the sentences below, placing the subordinate clause at the beginning of the sentence. Make any necessary changes in word order, including the placement of proper nouns.

1. Er parkt das Auto, während sie ins Restaurant geht.
2. Ich kann ihn nicht verstehen, obwohl er Deutsch spricht.
3. Hans und Erika gehen immer an den Strand, wenn das Wetter schön ist.
4. Peter ruft immer an, bevor er uns besucht.
5. Ich kaufe Herrn Müller ein Geschenk, da er mir geholfen hat.
6. Karl trinkt jeden Morgen Tee, damit er gesund bleibt.
7. Er macht das Fenster zu, wenn es zu kalt wird.
8. Ich habe ihn noch nicht gesehen, seitdem er zurück ist.
9. Die Soldaten fliegen nach Deutschland, nachdem sie Deutsch gelernt haben.
10. Frau Müller macht das Essen, sobald sie nach Hause kommt.



Write a complete subordinate clause on the basis of the given English. Use the verbs shown in parentheses.

1. I'm giving him my address so that he can visit me. (besuchen)

Ich gebe ihm meine Adresse, _____

2. Ingrid doesn't like the new dress any more after she washed it. (waschen)

Das neue Kleid gefällt Ingrid nicht mehr, _____

3. She cannot go to the movies because she has to work. (müssen - arbeiten)

Sie kann nicht ins Kino gehen, _____

4. We are not angry at him although he doesn't apologize. (sich entschuldigen)

Wir sind nicht böse auf ihn, _____

5. He says that he is not inviting Ingrid. (einladen)

Er sagt, _____

Write a complete subordinate clause on the basis of the given English. Use the verbs shown in parentheses.

1. I'm giving him my address so that he can visit me. (besuchen)

Ich gebe ihm meine Adresse, damit er mich besuchen kann.

2. Ingrid doesn't like the new dress any more after she washed it. (waschen)

Das neue Kleid gefällt Ingrid nicht mehr, seitdem sie es gewaschen hat.

3. She cannot go to the movies because she has to work. (müssen - arbeiten)

Sie kann nicht ins Kino gehen, weil sie arbeiten muss.

4. We are not angry at him although he doesn't apologize. (sich entschuldigen)

Wir sind nicht böse auf ihn, obwohl er sich nicht entschuldigt.

5. He says that he is not inviting Ingrid. (einladen)

Er sagt, dass er Ingrid nicht einlädt.

TURN THE PAGE.

6. You didn't get any letters while you were in Berlin. (sein)

Du hast keine Briefe bekommen, _____

7. Peter speaks better German ever since he met this German girl. (kennenlernen)

Peter spricht besser Deutsch, _____

8. We stay at the Hotel Regina whenever we are in Berlin. (sein)

Wir wohnen im Hotel Regina, _____

9. I will call you as soon as I arrive in Frankfurt. (ankommen)

Ich rufe dich an, _____

6. You didn't get any letters while you were in Berlin. (sein)

Du hast keine Briefe bekommen, während du in Berlin gewesen bist.

7. Peter speaks better German ever since he met this German girl. (kennenlernen)

Peter spricht besser Deutsch, seitdem er dieses deutsche Mädchen kennengelernt hat.

8. We stay at the Hotel Regina whenever we are in Berlin. (sein)

Wir wohnen im Hotel Regina, wenn wir in Berlin sind.

9. I will call you as soon as I arrive in Frankfurt. (ankommen)

Ich rufe dich an, sobald ich in Frankfurt ankomme.

10. They say that they want to go to the beach.
(wollen - gehen)

Sie sagen, _____

11. I am not visiting my parents today, because I
have no time. (haben)

Ich besuche heute meine Eltern nicht, _____

10. They say that they want to go to the beach.
(wollen - gehen)

Sie sagen, dass sie an den Strand gehen wollen.

11. I am not visiting my parents today, because I
have no time. (haben)

Ich besuche heute meine Eltern nicht, weil ich
keine Zeit habe.

TURN THE PAGE.

Fill in the blanks on the basis of the given English.
Use the verbs shown in parentheses.

1. Do you know why Mr. Müller doesn't have time?
(haben)

Weisst du, _____ ?

2. Can you tell me when the bus is leaving?
(abfahren)

Können Sie mir sagen, _____ ?

3. May I ask what is in the suitcase? (sein)

Darf ich fragen, _____ ?

4. I would like to know what Mrs. Meyer has said.
(sein)

Ich möchte wissen, _____ .

5. Can you tell me when the movie begins?
(anfangen)

Können Sie mir sagen, _____ ?

END OF TEST.

Fill in the blanks on the basis of the given English.
Use the verbs shown in parentheses.

1. Do you know why Mr. Müller doesn't have time?
(haben)

Weisst du, warum Herr Müller keine Zeit hat ?

2. Can you tell me when the bus is leaving?
(abfahren)

Können Sie mir sagen, wann der Bus abfährt ?

3. May I ask what is in the suitcase? (sein)

Darf ich fragen, was in dem Koffer ist ?

4. I would like to know what Mrs. Meyer has said.
(sein)

Ich möchte wissen, was Frau Meyer gesagt hat .

5. Can you tell me when the movie begins?
(anfangen)

Können Sie mir sagen, wann der Film anfängt ?

or: das Kino

END OF TEST.