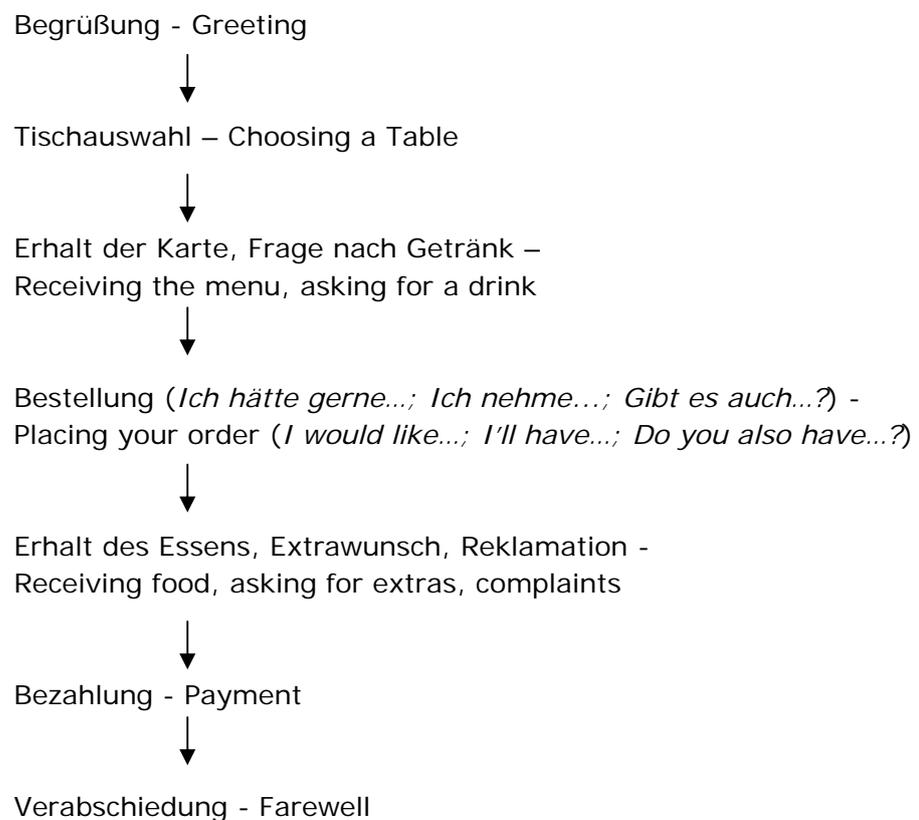


Learning Strategy – Conversation Preparation using the Example of “Besuch in einem Restaurant”

If you have the opportunity to talk to German speakers in your home country or even to go to Germany, Austria or Switzerland, it would be wise to practice conversational situations. Whenever an opportunity to speak to a German speaker arises, you should take advantage of it.

Before a Conversation

Take some time to consider your conversational situation. Where and with whom will you be speaking? Some situations follow a specific sequence, e.g. *Besuch in einem Restaurant*. Sketch a grid of the specific phases.



Then think about what expressions (see *Placing order* above) and vocabulary will be used in the individual phases.

Using the example of the restaurant, consider what kinds of things your waiter is likely to say – you will need to understand your waiter– and what you may want to say. Write the dialogue for the individual phases.

Writing a ‘script’ is something that may not work equally well in all situations. Still, you will be able to collect useful vocabulary and expressions to communicate what you would like.

During a Conversation

Do not pay attention to grammar; rather pay attention to content. Grammar mistakes seldom lead to misinterpretations. If you are missing words, however, comprehension is reduced.

Use so-called "compensation strategies": if you forgot or don't know a word, use mime, gestures or paraphrase what you want to say so that your partner in conversation can understand you.

Speak in simple sentences. You need to concentrate more on grammar when trying to use more complex sentences.

Try to avoid translating from your native language. Also keep in mind that when speaking in your native language it is not uncommon to make mistakes or speak in incomplete sentences.

Speak loudly and clearly. Do not be afraid to speak with an accent. The main thing is that your partner in conversation understands you.