

German

Discussing film and TV [1 / 3]

Using the negative expressions *nicht* and *kein*

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Gesetz



Seite

54



langsam

[s]



reisen



Satz

Subjekt Verb Objekt
↓ ↓ ↓
Ich habe Hunger.

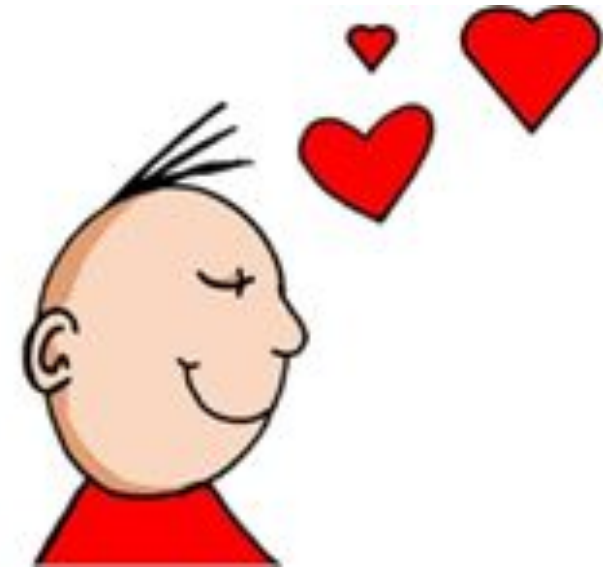


[ei]



frei

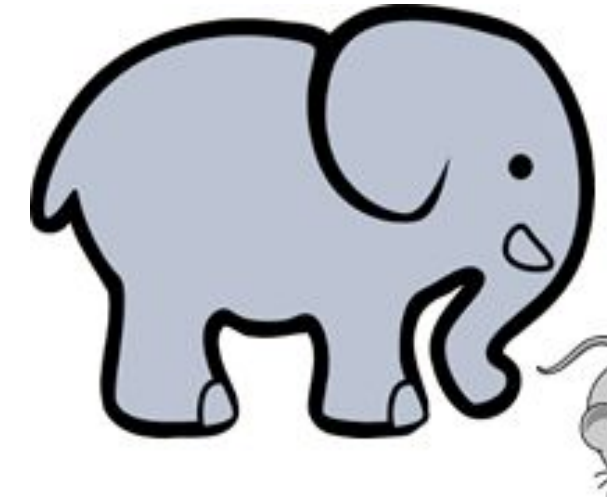
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Liebe



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klein

leider



ein

treiben

allein

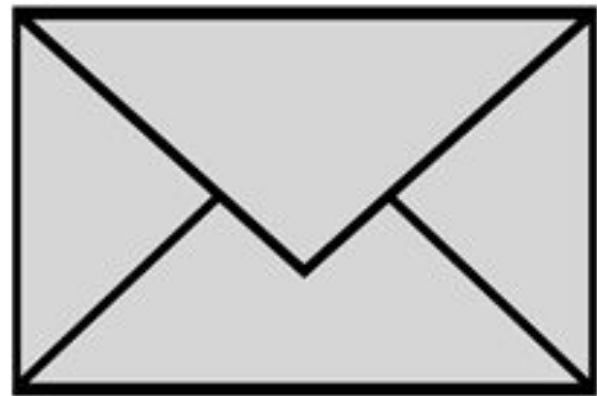


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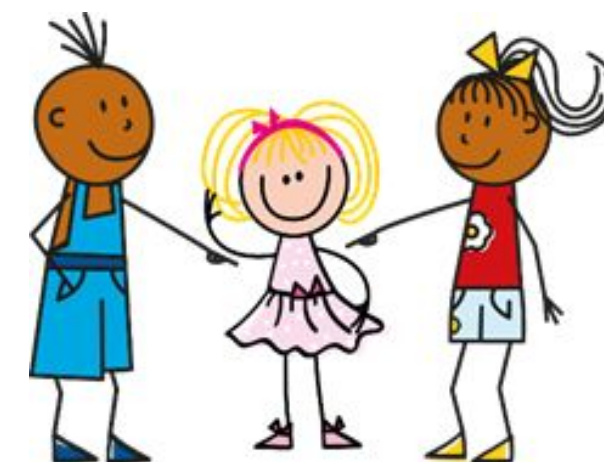




Brief

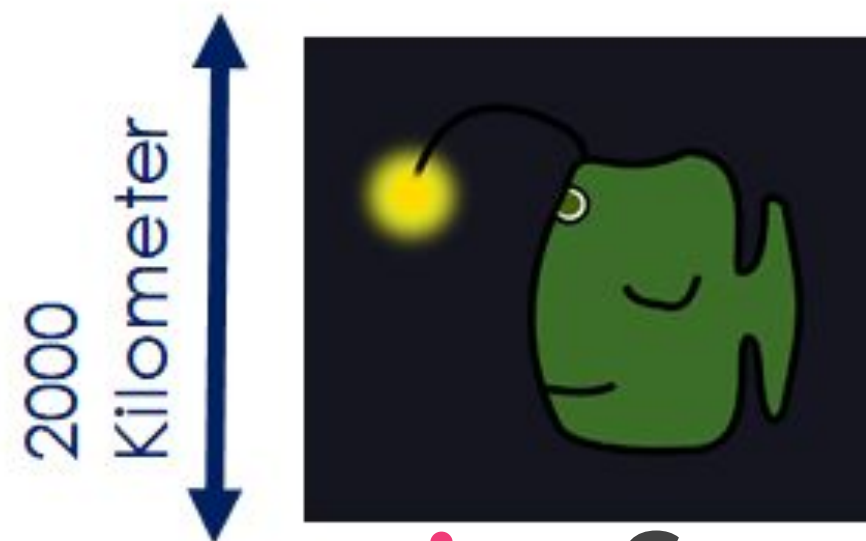
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sie



Liebe

spielen



tief

liegen



der Liebesfilm	romance
der Zeichentrickfilm	cartoon
die Komödie	comedy
die Dokumentation	documentary
die Gameshow	game show
das Fernsehen	television
unterhaltsam	entertaining
lustig	funny
interessant	interesting
spannend	exciting



Using the negative expression *nicht*

In German, to say 'not' with adjectives, use 'nicht':

Das ist rot

That is red

adjective

Das ist **nicht** rot

That is **not** red



Using the negative expression *kein*

To say 'not a' with nouns, use 'kein':

noun

Das ist **kein** Tisch (m).

*That is **not a** table.*

Das ist **keine** Katze (f).

*That is **not a** cat.*

Das ist **kein** Buch (n).

*That is **not a** book.*

'kein' works like 'ein' and matches the gender of the noun.

We sometimes use 'no' in English, too: That's no problem! Das ist kein Problem!



Using the negative expression *kein*

All the plural forms of *kein* are the same

To say 'not (any)' with plural nouns, use '**keine**' with the plural verb and noun:

Das sind **keine** Tische (m).

*Those are **not** tables.*

Das sind **keine** Katzen (f).

*Those are **not** cats.*

Das sind **keine** Bücher (n).

*Those are **not** books.*



Using the negative expression *kein*

When the plural nouns are the object of the sentence, you also use '**keine**':

Ich sehe **keine** Liebesfilme (m). *I **don't** watch **any** romances*

Ich sehe **keine** Gameshow**s** (f). *I **don't** watch **any** game shows*

Ich spiele **keine** Computerspiele**(n)**. *I **don't** play **any** computer games*

All the plural forms of *kein* are still the same

You need to know the plural form of the noun



Summary of our learning

In German, to say 'not' with adjectives, use **nicht**, eg. 'that is not exciting' is **das ist nicht spannend**.

To say 'not a' with nouns, use **kein**, eg. 'that is not a romance' is **das ist kein Liebesfilm**.

To say 'not any' with plural nouns as the object of the sentence, use **keine**, eg. 'I do not watch any romances' is **ich sehe keine Liebesfilme**.

