

# GERMAN PUNCTUATION



## Das Komma (comma)

Amongst its various uses, the German comma is used to list items but never comes before 'und' or 'oder'. For example:

Ich brauche Salz, Pfeffer, Öl und Zitrone für den Salat  
—I need salt, pepper, oil, and lemon for the salad.

There would have been a comma before the 'and' in English.

In German, subordinate clauses are always introduced with a comma:

"Die Frau, die ich seit 10 Jahren kenne, heißt Maxine." (The woman, whom I have known for 10 years, is called Maxine)

Clauses beginning with subordinating conjunctions such as "weil" and "dass" always begin with a comma:

"Ich machte das Fenster zu, weil es mir kalt war."  
(I closed the window because I was cold)

