



Fluency Phrases German

You've got an interview – ein Vorstellungsgespräch – for a job in German? Use this cheat sheet for an overview and examples of typical questions on **your career to date** (*Ihr bisheriger beruflicher Werdegang* or *Ihre bisherige Laufbahn*) and how to respond to them.

Of course, you'll need to adapt the phrases to your own situation. Viel Erfolg!

The "career so far" question could be phrased in several ways, for example:

- **Können Sie etwas über sich erzählen?** (Can you tell us a bit about yourself?)
- **Wie sieht Ihr beruflicher Werdegang aus?** (Can you describe your professional experience?)
- **Wie würden Sie Ihre bisherigen beruflichen Stationen beschreiben?**
How would you describe your previous professional positions?
- **Was waren Ihre wichtigsten beruflichen Erfahrungen?**
What were your most important professional experiences?
- **Erzählen Sie mir mehr über Ihren bisherigen Karriereweg.**
Tell me more about your career path so far.

These variations essentially ask the same thing: a summary of your professional journey.

This question is very broad. Don't serve up a rambling life story. In Germany, there's usually a pretty clear distinction between personal life and professional competence. Unless you're specifically asked, avoid general interests and hobbies. Keep your answer focused on your work. Highlight how your previous roles have equipped you with skills that match the new job's requirements. What have you learned, and how will this help you grow in the role you're applying for? These are the things that really matter to interviewers, so always answer with that in mind!

Unless you've recently graduated from school or an apprenticeship, don't go into too much detail about your education. The interviewers can already see that in your **Lebenslauf** (your CV). But if you are new to the world of work, you could say:

- **Nach meinem Studium habe ich in der Kommunikationsbranche angefangen.**
After my studies, I started working in the communications industry.

Rather than studying in uni, maybe you did a more vocational apprenticeship:

- **Nach meiner Ausbildung zum Bürokaufmann habe ich in einem mittelständischen Unternehmen angefangen.**
After my apprenticeship as an office clerk, I started working in a mid-sized company.

Moving on to your first job (mainly relevant if you're at an early stage in your career);

- **In meinem ersten Job habe ich viel über die Branche gelernt.**
In my first job, I learned a lot about the industry.
- **Ich habe schnell neue Aufgaben übernommen.**
I quickly took on new responsibilities.

And as you grew and took on more responsibilities:

- **Nach kurzer Zeit bin ich in eine Führungsposition aufgestiegen.**
After a short time, I moved into a leadership position.
- **In meiner vorletzten Stelle habe ich ein großes Projektteam geleitet, das mehrere Abteilungen umfasste.**
In my second-to-last position, I led a large project team that included several departments.

Let's move on to talking about your current job:

- **Ich arbeite derzeit als Marketing-Manager.**
I currently work as a marketing manager.
- **Ich bin für die digitale Marketingstrategie verantwortlich.**
I am responsible for the digital marketing strategy.

Notice there *derzeit* (currently) and *für etwas verantwortlich sein* (to be responsible for something).

In English we talk about "gaining experience" whereas in German the set combo is "Erfahrungen sammeln" literally to gather experiences:

- **In den letzten fünf Jahren habe ich als Marketing-Manager viel Erfahrung gesammelt.**
Over the past five years, I have gained a lot of experience as a marketing manager.

Listen now to another way of saying that you've built up useful experience:

- **Ich habe umfangreiche Kenntnisse in der Content-Erstellung erworben.**
I have acquired extensive expertise in content creation.

Here's "Erfahrung" - experience again:

- **Ich habe auch Erfahrung in der Suchmaschinenoptimierung.**
I also have experience in search engine optimization.

Let's look at some phrases about your teamwork and leadership experience:

- **In meiner letzten Position habe ich ein Team von fünf Mitarbeitern geleitet.**
In my last position, I led a team of five employees.
- **Wir haben zusammen an verschiedenen Projekten gearbeitet.**
We worked together on various projects.
- **Ich habe erfolgreiche Marketingkampagnen geleitet.**
I led successful marketing campaigns.

Don't forget to be armed with an example or two of concrete results that you and your team have delivered.

- **Diese Kampagnen haben die Kundenbindung um 20 % erhöht.**
These campaigns increased customer retention by 20%.

Think also about what you learned from the success:

- **Durch diese Erfahrung habe ich gelernt, wie man Teams effektiv führt und Projekte erfolgreich umsetzt.**
Through this experience, I learned how to manage teams effectively and implement projects successfully.

Check out the **German interview phrases** playlist as you'll want to see the other videos in this job interview series. Next, we'll look at **Fluency Phrases** that will help you talk about **why you have applied for the advertised job**. Subscribe to the channel, and hit the bell so you don't miss out!