

Warm up

Translation of the Complete
Audio Text

Chapter 1

The Bauer Family

Hello. My name is Peter Bauer. I am from Frankfurt. I am German. I am tall, have blonde hair and blue eyes. I am 35 years old. I am an engineer. I don't have to wear a suit to work. I can go to work in jeans and a sweatshirt or sweater in winter. In summer I put on a shirt or T-shirt. I am married and have two children. From Monday to Friday, I work from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. I take the subway to work and back home.

This is my wife, Sabine. She is also German. She is 30 years old. She is smaller than me. Her hair is brown and so are her eyes. She is a nurse. At work she has to wear a white T-shirt, and white trousers. We have been married since 2010. We have a son, Karl, 4 years old, and a daughter, Martina, 18 months old. Both children are blonde and have blue eyes, like me.

I speak English quite well, but Sabine doesn't. My brother lives in London. He is a manager in a large company. His wife is English and the two speak English with each other. I have no sisters.

Sabine has no siblings. Because our children are still small, she isn't working these days. Now she is a housewife and mother. From Monday to Friday, she takes Karl to the kindergarten and then goes shopping with Martina. At noon she picks Karl up again. After lunch the children take a nap. In the afternoon they all go to the playground or visit friends. Sabine goes by car. This is easier.

On weekends we often go to the zoo or the swimming pool. We often drive to another city. Every evening before dinner I play with Karl and read him a story. At 7 p.m. he goes to bed.

Chapter 2

Visitors from London

Last week my brother and his wife from London visited us. It was already very late when they arrived on Monday. I picked them up at the airport by car. We live quite far from the airport.

London is a large city with 8.5 million inhabitants, but there are also many parks. Frankfurt is much smaller and has only 690,000 inhabitants.

The next morning, we all had breakfast together. My brother's name is Fred, and his wife's, Christine. Last week I was on vacation and didn't have to go to work. So, I had plenty of time for our visitors.

Chapter 3

At Breakfast

Fred and Christine: Good morning!

Sabine: Good morning! Did you sleep well?

Fred: Yes, thank you! I slept like a baby although the bed is much harder than our bed at home.

Peter: Good morning! Would you like some coffee?

Fred: Yes, please. I love German coffee!

Christine: No thanks! I prefer tea. Do you have any black tea?

Sabine: Yes, of course! I'll boil you some water for your tea. Would you like some milk and sugar, too?

Christine: Milk, yes, but I always drink tea without sugar.

Fred: Would you pass the milk and sugar, please? Thank you.

Peter: There are bread and rolls, butter, jam and honey. We also have sausage and cheese. Please help yourself and enjoy your meal.

Christine: Mmmm, German bread tastes very good! I also like this jam and honey. But I don't like the cheese that much.

Chapter 4

Making Plans for the Week

Peter: How long are you staying in Frankfurt this time?

Christine: We will be flying back to London at 6pm on Friday. So we have almost four days to have fun together. I would like to take a walk through Sachsenhausen, visit the Senckenberg Museum and take a trip to Rudesheim. What's the weather forecast for this week?

Sabine: It is supposed to be sunny with some clouds almost the whole week. It won't get too hot and will probably only rain Wednesday afternoon.

Peter: You've already prepared quite well, Christine. How do you know all these places? Has Fred told you so much about Frankfurt? Well, then we can go to Sachsenhausen right away. After that we can go to the zoo or the Palmengarten (botanical gardens). There is a very interesting exhibition at the Palmengarten. We could go to the Senckenberg Museum on Wednesday afternoon. Karl is very interested in dinosaurs. On Thursday we can take a trip all together to Rüdesheim. The best way is to go by car to Wiesbaden and then by ship. And on Friday morning we can go into town again if you still need souvenirs or presents. In the afternoon we will take you back to the airport and then watch the airplanes from the visitor platform.

Fred: Are we taking the subway to Main Tower?

Peter: Yes, we could do that, but we'd better take the tram. We'll see more of the city that way.

Chapter 5

At the Restaurant 1

Christine: This is a very nice part of the city. There are so many beautiful old houses and narrow alleys with interesting shops, restaurants and pubs.

Fred: Yes, I also liked it very much. I'm hungry now. Where can we get delicious German food?

Peter: Right here on the corner there is a traditional restaurant with good German cuisine. That's where we're going. There is also a courtyard with tables and a small playground. Karl and Martina can play there until lunch is served.

Sabine: Yes, that's a good idea. And there is also a children's menu with noodles and tomato sauce. Karl likes to eat that very much.

Peter: There's a big table empty here. We'll have Karl sitting next to me or between Sabine and me, and Martina on the other side of Sabine.

Waitress: Hello! Here are the menus. What would you like to drink?

Peter: Hello! I'll have a Radler, Sabine a water without gas, Karl a small glass of Apfelschorle.

What would you like to drink?

Christine: What is a „Radler“? And what is „Apfelschorle“?

Fred: A Radler is beer mixed with lemonade. Apfelschorle is apple juice with mineral water.

Christine: I don't drink alcohol. So, I'll have an Apfelschorle, too, please. How much does a big glass contain?

Waitress: (quickly spoken) A big glass is 0.4 liters, a small one 0.25 liters.

Christine: Excuse me? Can you please repeat that and speak more slowly?

Waitress: (slower and clearer): A large glass is 0.4 liters, a small one 0.25 liters.

Christine: Thank you! Now I understand. Then I'll have a large Apfelschorle, please.

Fred: And I'll have a Radler, too, please.

Chapter 6

At the Restaurant 2

Waitress: Well, here's one Radler.... And another one.... The water was for you, wasn't it?

Sabine: Yes, thank you.

Waitress: And the small Apfelschorle is for the young man on the playground. You had the big Apfelschorle. Here you are.

Christine: Thank you!

Waitress: What will you have for lunch?

Sabine: The little boy will have the children's menu: noodles with tomato sauce. I'll have the roasted pork with sauerkraut. The little girl will share lunch with me and her brother. Could you please bring an extra set of cutlery for her, please?

Peter: I'd like the Schweinehaxe (knuckle of pork) with sauerkraut.

Christine: What is a Schweinehaxe?

Fred: That's a pig's foot.

Christine: No, thanks. Do you have any fish?

Fred: Here in Frankfurt the fish doesn't taste as well as in London.

Christine: OK, then I'd rather have some roasted pork.

Fred: And for me, the roast beef with potato dumplings, please.

Waitress: A children's menu, two roasted pork, a knuckle of pork, a roast beef and extra cutlery for the young lady. You can help yourself to some salad at the buffet in the restaurant.

Peter: Thank you. Let's go to the buffet. Sabine, I'll bring you a bowl of salad. Then you can stay with the children.

Sabine: Thank you, Peter.

Waitress: Here I have the noodles with tomato sauce for the young man and the two roasted pork.

Christine and Sabine: That's for me.

Waitress: I'll bring the other dishes for the gentlemen in a moment.

Waitress: And here are the knuckle of pork and the roast beef. Enjoy your meal!

Sabine: How does the roasted pork taste, Christine? And what about the sauerkraut?

Christine: I like the roasted pork and the mashed potatoes with it, but I don't like the sauerkraut that much. How's your roast beef, Fred?

Fred: It's really delicious, and so is the dumpling.

Waitress: So, did you enjoy your meals? May I take the plates away? Would you like some dessert?

Peter: Thank you, it was all very good. We'd like three cups of coffee and a cup of black tea. For the kids, we'd like a scoop of chocolate ice cream each. Can you please bring us the bill, too?

Waitress: Three cups of coffee, one cup of black tea and two scoops of chocolate ice cream. All right, just a moment, please.

Waitress: Here, young man, here's your ice cream. And this is for you, little lady. And who will have the cup of tea?

Christine: Me, please.

Waitress: Here you are.

Christine: Thank you.

Waitress: Here's your coffee. And here's the bill.

Peter: Can I pay with my card?

Waitress: Of course. One moment, please.... I'll get the card processor.

Waitress: OK, here I am again. 89 Euro 50... Please enter your PIN.... Thank you. And here's your receipt. Thank you very much and goodbye.

Chapter 7

In Town

Peter: So, what shall we do do now? Where shall we go? The weather is so nice, we can take a walk through the city and go to the Römer. That is the marketplace of Frankfurt. Afterwards we can visit the cathedral and go into the Kleinmarkthalle.

Fred: Yes, that sounds like a good idea.

Sabine: I'll stay with Karl and Martina on the playground by the river for a while. That way you can take your time visiting the cathedral and the Kleinmarkthalle. We'll meet later at home. I'll be home around 5 p.m. On the way home I can go to the supermarket and buy something for dinner.

The next day, Wednesday, it rained, and we went to the museum. It was very interesting and also a lot of fun for Karl. Sabine stayed at home with Martina.

On Thursday the sun was shining again. We got up early in the morning and went by car to Wiesbaden right after breakfast. We parked beside the river Rhine and then bought our tickets for the ship to Rudesheim.

Chapter 8

Buying Tickets

Peter: Hello, I would like to have tickets for 4 adults to Rüdesheim and back. The boy is 4 years old, and we also have a toddler in a stroller.

Saleswoman: Hello. The children are free, and for the adults that will be 48 euros, please.

Peter: Here are 50 euros.

Saleswoman: Here are your tickets and 2 Euro change. The ship will leave in 10 minutes. Here is the timetable with the departure times for the return journey from Rüdesheim. Have a nice day.

Peter: Thank you. Goodbye Here are the tickets. It's best for everyone to take their own ticket. Karl will stay with me and Sabine will take care of Martina. We'll sit at a table on the lower level because of the stroller. I'm taking Karl up to the deck. Who's coming with me?

Fred: I'll come with you to the deck. That's a good idea. Come on, let's hurry up so we can get good seats.

The trip on the Rhine to Rüdesheim was very nice. Sabine stayed below deck with Martina in the stroller, but the rest of us went up to the deck. It was a little windy there. So, Christine soon went down again to sit with Sabine and Martina.

Chapter 9

Which Way to the Cable Car?

Peter: So, now we are in Rüdesheim. Now, how do we get to the cable car? We'd better ask somebody.

Sabine: Excuse me. Can you tell us how to get to the cable car?

Passer-by: Yes, sure. First go straight ahead, then take the first road to the left and then immediately turn right again. When you have reached the top, you have to turn left again and then you are right at the cable car.

Fred: So straight ahead, then left, then right and left again.

Passer-by: Yes, exactly. I hope you have a lot of fun in Rudesheim.

Fred, Christine, Peter and Sabine: Thank you very much! Have a nice day.

We found the cable car very good. At the monument we had a small break and enjoyed the view. Then we walked through the vineyards back into town. We were all very hungry now and had some chicken and fries. Afterwards we visited the castle. There were many souvenir shops in town. Christine and Fred found and bought some things there. Karl also got a small ship from them, and Martina a T-shirt.

Chapter 10

At the Souvenir Shop

Saleswoman: Good afternoon! How can I help you?

Fred: We'll buy these chocolates and these tea towels. Do you have this children's T-shirt in size 98?

Saleswoman: I'll have a look.... I'm sorry, but we don't have them anymore.

Christine: And this T-shirt? That's very nice, too.

Saleswoman: Yes, we have it in red and blue. Which colour would you like?

Sabine: Red, please.

Fred: And then this ship, too. How much is all this together?

Saleswoman: One moment, please.... 30.... 45.... 50... 59 euros and 88 cents, please.

Fred: Can I pay by credit card, please?

Saleswoman: Of course. Please sign here.... Thank you. And here's your receipt. Thank you very much and goodbye!

Fred: Goodbye.

After shopping at the souvenir shop, we went back to the river and took the boat back to Wiesbaden. There we first had dinner at a pizzeria. Then we got into the car and soon were back home in Frankfurt. It was a long day, and the children even fell asleep in the car. At home Sabine put them straight to bed. Then we opened a bottle of wine and had a little chat before we went to bed.

On the last day we slept in and had a leisurely breakfast at home. Fred and Christine already had all the gifts for their friends and Christine's family, so we didn't have to go into town again. The two of them packed their suitcases and at noon we went to the airport. First we had lunch in the visitors' area, and watched the planes take off and land for a while. After coffee and cake Fred and Christine checked in and we accompanied them to the control point. Then we went home again. I took Karl and Martina to the playground while Sabine cleaned up the apartment.

Chapter 11

Travel Plans

In September I will have a few weeks' vacation again. We will spend this time in Berlin with Sabine's parents. Since the journey by car takes too long for two small children, we will go by train. Sabine's parents' apartment is too small for four adults with two children and a dog, but nearby there is a small hotel where we can reserve a cheap room for the whole family. In Berlin Sabine and I will also go out one evening. That night the children will sleep at their grandpa and grandma's. We're going to a concert. This is my gift to Sabine for her birthday. Before that, we'll have dinner at a restaurant together. But the next morning we can't sleep in, because we will be at the grandparents' for breakfast at 8 o'clock.

Chapter 12

Booking Train Tickets online

Sabine: We still have to buy the tickets to Berlin. When will we leave?

Peter: The best time to go is on Monday in the late morning. If we take the ICE, we don't have to change trains and will arrive in Berlin four hours later. The ICE also has a family compartment in which small children can play nicely. Please have a look on the internet to check the departure times and if we can get seats in the family compartment.

Sabine: Here, look - the ICE at 10:13 a.m. will arrive at 14:25 p.m. at the main station in Berlin and even is a little cheaper than the other connections. I'll see if we can get seats in the family compartment.... Oh, yes - they are offering us seats there right away. How convenient! Now we

still need ticket for the return journey: There is a train at half past three, but it won't be arrive in Frankfurt until quarter to seven. That's too late for the children. The train leaving at ten to two isn't a direct connection. This is inconvenient because we have to change trains in Hanover and only have 13 minutes to do so... that is just too much of a hassle for me with the stroller and the suitcase. If we leave at half past two, we don't have to change trains, we will arrive at Frankfurt at a quarter to six and be at home half an hour later. We'll take this train. Then we will have lunch at the main station with grandpa and grandma and then we can get on the train. ... Well, the tickets to Berlin and back home are booked now.

Chapter 13

The Journey to Berlin

On Monday they all get up early. After Sabine has washed, combed and dressed herself, she washes and dresses Martina. Karl can do it by himself, he only needs a little help combing his hair. He puts on a pair of blue jeans and a red T-shirt for the journey. Sabine is wearing a green dress, Martina a pair of red trousers and a pink T-shirt. Peter gets bread rolls and pretzels for the children at the bakery. Everyone has a roll for breakfast, and then Peter prepares rolls for lunch on the train. Sabine cuts a few apples into pieces and puts a few bottles of water into her backpack. The suitcases are already packed. They did that all together the night before. Karl and Martina also helped: Everyone was allowed to put a toy into the backpack and another cuddly toy into the suitcase.

The family takes the subway to the main station. In the great hall, Peter says:

Peter: Sabine, you go to the platform with the children. I'll go get something. We'll meet at the waggon.

Peter goes into the bookshop and buys a newspaper for himself, a magazine for Sabine, a colouring book for Karl and a picture book for Martina. Then he goes to a small supermarket and buys a bag of Gummi Bears.

A few minutes later he meets his family again on the platform. Soon the train arrives, and everyone gets on. Where's the family compartment? Karl runs ahead and finds it right away. Everybody sits down at the big table. Soon the train leaves and everyone is looking forward to

seeing grandpa and grandma again in a few hours. First the kids look out the window, but then they get bored. Peter takes out the colouring book and the picture book.

Peter: This colouring book is for Karl. Sabine, where are the crayons? ... And this picture book is for Martina.

Sabine: The crayons are in the backpack under my seat. I'll get them out. What about me? Have you brought something for me, too?

Peter: Of course, here's your magazine and I will read my newspaper.

This works fine for a while until Martina has finished her picture book. Then she sees Karl eagerly colouring his book and wants to colour something, too. But Karl doesn't want her to draw in his colouring book. So, Sabine pulls out a block of paper from her backpack.

Sabine: We'll borrow a crayon from Karl, and then you can also draw. What colour do you want? He doesn't need the red crayon right now, so we can use it. Karl colours in his colouring book and you can draw on this block of paper.

When the children get hungry and thirsty, they first have to clean up the table. Then Sabine gets a bottle of water, cups, and the sandwiches from her backpack. Everyone gets a cup: Peter has the blue cup, Karl the green one, Martina the red one and Sabine the yellow one. Everyone gets a roll with cheese or sausage, too. After they all have eaten up and the table is clean again, Peter takes out the bag of gummy bears and gives ten to each one of his family. He'll save the rest for another day.

Then the children look out of the window again and sometimes see horses, cows or sheep on the green meadows. The train is very fast and soon they are in Berlin.

Chapter 14

Arriving at Berlin

The grandparents and their little dog are picking up the family.

Peter: Hello Grandpa! Hello Grandma! How are you? Thank you so much for picking us up.

Grandpa: We're fine, thank you! Have you had a good trip?

Sabine: Yes, thank you! The children were nice and quiet and luckily, we didn't have to change trains.

Because grandpa's car is small and they all would not fit in, they take the light rail to grandpa's and grandma's apartment. But first the family has to check in at the hotel.

Check in at the hotel

Peter: Hello! My name is Peter Bauer. We've reserved a room for a week.

Hotel staff: Bauer... Yes, here I have your reservation for a family room, 3 beds and a cot. Please fill out this registration form and sign it at the bottom. Your room number is 109. It's on the first floor. Here you are. This is your key, and the elevator is over there. You can take the pram into the room and park it in the anteroom.

Sabine: Thank you, that is very handy.

The Bauer family takes the elevator to the first floor and takes the luggage to their room.

Sabine changes Martina's clothes and then they all go to grandpa and grandma's for coffee.

There everyone sits down at the table and grandma serves strong coffee and tasty cake to the adults, and ice cream and sweet lemonade to the children. Soon Sabine's friend arrives and after dinner everyone goes to the hotel except for the grandparents and their dog. It was a very exhausting day, and the children were very tired. They've been awake since the morning and Martina hasn't slept much on the trip. Sabine puts the children to bed, and they quickly fall asleep. Peter and Sabine talk for a while and then go to bed, too.

The next morning the children are a bit surprised. Where are they? Whose bed is this? Why don't they sleep at Grandma and Grandpa's? But then they remember: They are at the hotel in Berlin. They cannot all sleep at grandma and grandpa's because their guest room is too small for four people.

Chapter 15

Having fun in Berlin

After breakfast at the hotel Peter and Sabine with their children pick up their grandparents. They have planned a visit to the zoo for today. Karl is looking forward to the lions and tigers. When they arrive in front of the enclosure, a lion roars loudly. Martina is afraid and quickly hides behind her mother. In the reptile house she presses her face firmly against the glass pane. She wants to see the lizards and snakes. Here Karl is very impatient and wants to move on fast. There's still so much to see. This evening, too, the children are very tired again and are eager to go to bed.

On the evening of the third day in Berlin Sabine and Peter went to the concert. In the late afternoon they left the children with their grandparents and said goodbye to them. In the hotel room they took a shower and dressed elegantly: Peter put on a dark suit and a white shirt with a tie, Sabine a long red dress. Then they took a cab to an expensive restaurant and then to the concert. It was very late when they returned to the hotel room and went to bed happily but very tired.

The next morning, the phone rang. Sabine wakes up first and picks up the phone:

Sabine: Sabine Bauer, good morning!.... Who is this, please? ...Oh, Karl! Well, good morning! Did you sleep well? I just woke up. Now I'll wake up Dad and in half an hour we'll be with you for breakfast! See you later!

The remaining days in Berlin pass quickly. Soon the Bauer family is back on the train to Frankfurt. Everyone had a lot of fun in Berlin with the grandparents, but Karl is looking forward to kindergarten and Martina wants to meet her friends again. Now they are back at the train station in Berlin and say goodbye to their grandparents.

At the station

Sabine: Thank you very much for the nice time with you. Thank you for having Karl and Martina over at your place for one night. Goodbye.

Grandma: You're welcome. We also enjoyed it very much. Goodbye.

Peter: Why don't you come to Frankfurt and join us for Christmas? Our house is big and we have a guest room. We've got room for the dog, too. Goodbye.