

Regular Verbs in German

In class, we talked about German regular verbs. They are called "regular" because they follow a very regular pattern: they are formed by combining a verb stem, which is always the same, with an ending, which depends on the person who is performing the action described by the verb. See the table below for examples:

	Person	Stem	Ending
Infinitive		mach	en
1st person singular	ich	mach	e
2nd person singular	du	mach	st
3rd person singular	er/sie/es	mach	t
1st person plural	wir	mach	en
2nd person plural	ihr	mach	t
3rd person plural	sie	mach	en

In sentences where the subject is one of the persons above, one has to find out which person the subject could be replaced with, and pick the appropriate ending accordingly.

Example:

Ernie und Bert _____ Quatsch.

"Ernie and Bert" are more than one person, so we have to look at the plural persons. They are not the speakers (so "wir" doesn't apply), and they are not spoken to directly, so "ihr" doesn't apply either. The 3rd person plural works here, because "Ernie and Bert" could be replaced with "sie" (they) and the sentence would still work grammatically. Hence,

Ernie and Bert machen Quatsch.

Note that "machen" is in the 3rd person plural here, not in the infinitive, which has the same ending.

Please complete the following sentences. If there is no person given, please make up one or more grammatically correct person(s). Pick between the regular verbs **gehen**, **machen**, **singen** and **tanzen**. More than one verb may fit, but the sentences should make sense. For **gehen**, I have underlined the stem. You can do the same for the other verbs, where –en is always the infinitive ending.

Lillian, Shelby and Prisca tanzen
gerne.

Raymond singt nicht gerne.

Macht ihr Hausaufgaben?

Shelby tanzt gerne.

Raymond und Karl singen nicht
gerne.

Jona und Ana, bitte macht keinen
Quatsch!

Ich gehe nach hause.

Wir gehen schwimmen.

Du machst das sehr gut.

Die Sänger singen im Chor.

Maya, was machst du auf dem
Baum?

Heike und Caroline gehen schnell
auf den Spielplatz.