

## German: Forms of the Pronoun "You"

	Singular	Plural
Informal (Familiar)	du	ihr
Formal (Polite)	Sie	Sie

German has three pronouns which are equivalent to the English "you."

The pronoun "**Sie**" is used when addressing anybody outside one's immediate circle of family and friends. Neighbors, acquaintances and coworkers will all use this formal form of address. Note that "Sie" is used when addressing a single individual (singular) and when addressing a group of individuals (plural).

"**Du**" and "**ihr**" are used when addressing a friend or family member, and are also used among children or high school and university students who may not be close friends. (But don't forget to use "Sie" with your professor!!) "Du" is used only when addressing one person (singular), and "ihr" is used to address a group of people (plural). "Ihr" corresponds to the English slang expressions "ya'll," "you guys," or "youze."

### Examples:

Note the various uses of these pronouns when asking somebody's origins:

*Question:*

*Used to address:*

Woher kommen Sie?

Your new neighbor or neighbors

Woher kommt ihr?

The new students in your dorm

Woher kommst du?

Your new classmate

### To choose the correct pronoun in German, ask yourself:

1. Am I talking to one person (singular) or a group of people (plural)?
2. Should I use informal address (for friends, relatives and peers) or formal address? (for all others)?

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