

Bank Terminology



German	English
Konto	account
Girokonto	checking/debit account
Sparkonto	savings account
Geldautomat	ATM
Geheimzahl	secret personal identification number (PIN)
Geld überweisen/ Überweisung	transfer
Geld einzahlen/ Einzahlung	deposit
Geld abheben / Abhebung	withdrawal
Unterschrift	signature
Dauerauftrag	standing order you set this up: money is automatically transferred from your account to a recipient of your choice at an interval of your choice, e.g. rent to your landlord
SEPA Mandat (Einzugsermächtigung)	you give authorization for someone to automatically deduct money from your account (e.g. monthly electricity bill)
Lastschrift	direct bill
Zinsen	interest

Important terminology for making a bank transfer online or on paper:

German	English
Begünstigter	recipient
Kunden-Referenznummer / Verwendungszweck	reference (i.e. bill number) or purpose
Kontoinhaber	account holder
IBAN	International Bank Account Number This number begins with DE and includes your account number and the identification of your bank
BLZ	your bank's 8-digit identification code
BIC	bank identification code for international purposes (also called SWIFT)

Bank Terminology



"False Friends"

German	English
bar	cash
Kredit aufnehmen	to take a loan

Sending Money Abroad

If you're sending money abroad, you will be asked how you want any transaction fees to be managed.

Options for extra fee paid for international wire transfer:

BEN = beneficiary (transfer fees paid by recipient)

SHA = share (transfer fees split between recipient and sender)

OUR = (transfer fees paid by sender)