



Lesson 2: You're Welcome

Bitte schön

LESSON NOTES

Just like "Thank You" and "You're Welcome" go together in English, the same goes in German. Anytime some one tells you danke, or danke schön in any form, bitte or bitte schön is also expected.

In German "You're welcome." is bitte schön. The first word bitte means both "please" and "you're welcome". This is followed by schön, which in German is "beautiful". So to recap here, we have bitte schön. Literally this means "beautiful request".

Another way of responding to a phrase of gratitude is gern geschehen which means "with pleasure". The first word gern means "With pleasure", or "gladly". It is followed by geschehen, which in German is "to happen", or "to occur". So to recap here, we have gern geschehen. Literally this means "Done with pleasure".

VOCABULARY

German	Romanized	English
bitte schön	bitte schoen	you're welcome, here you are
gern	gern	gladly
geschehen	geschehen	to happen, to occur
gern geschehen	gern geschehen	with pleasure

QUICK TIP

With bitte and bitte schön there is no formal or informal use. Bitte is the short way to say "you're welcome". The Germans use bitte for "please", it's all a matter of context.

QUICK TIP 2

You can also use bitte schön when you are giving someone something. For example; you are asked to pass the butter, as you hand the butter to the person you can say bitte schön, which in this case means "here you are".