Introduction

how to get German vocabulary as quick as possible in a smart way

Word anatomy

Any word consists of letters. Each letter is classified as either a consonant (C) or a vowel (V)

In English, consonants are **B**, **C**, **D**, **F**, **G**, **J**, **K**, **L**, **M**, **N**, **P**,**Q**, **S**, **T**, **V**, **X**, **Z** and often **H**, **R**, **W**, **Y**.

The vowels in English are **a**, **e**, **i**, **o**, **u**, and sometimes **y**.

But some of letters can be both. It's something like wave-particle duality in quantum mechanics.

In English orthography, the letters **H**, **R**, **W**, **Y** and the digraph **GH** are used for both consonants and vowels. For instance, the letter Y stands for the consonant /j/ in yoke, the vowel /ɪ/ in myth, the vowel /i/ in funny, the diphthong /aɪ/ in sky, and forms several digraphs for other diphthongs, such as say, boy, key. Similarly, R commonly indicates or modifies a vowel.

RULE #1

Pay attention only to CONSONANTS!

(excluding prefixes and suffixes)

Ignore vowels completely.

SaGen

The root or the backbone of the word „sagen" is composed of the consonants S, G. Consonants , i.e. the building blocks or the backbone of any word are marked with a capital letter as important All German infinitives end in „n". Suffixes are ignored. That's why they are indicated by a lower-case letter as unimportant.

geSaGt

The root or the backbone of the word „gesagt" is composed of the consonants S, G. Consonants , i.e. the building blocks or the backbone of any word are marked with a capital letter as important. Ge- is the prefix. -t is the suffix Prefixes and suffixes are ignored. That's why they are indicated by a lower-case letter as unimportant.
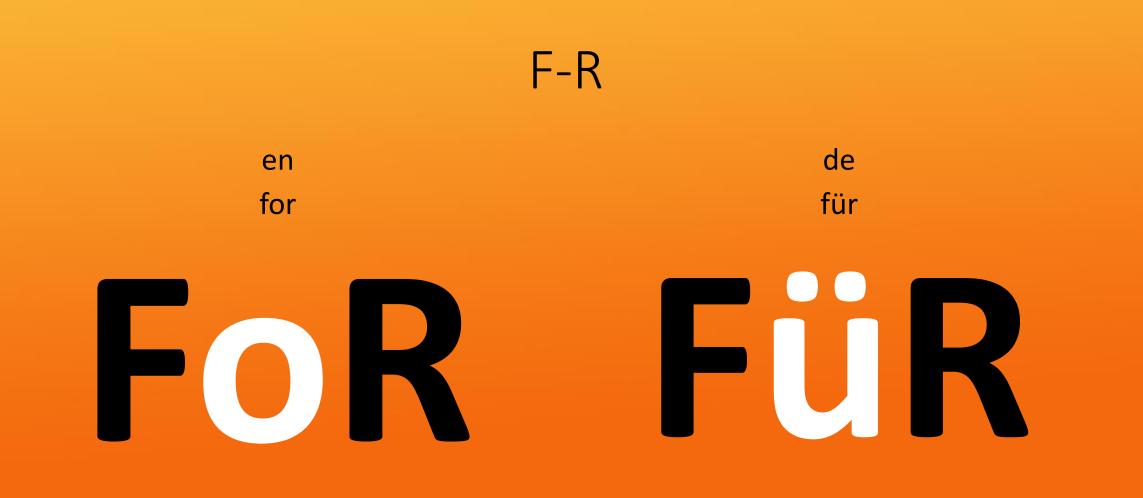
F-S-T

(these consonants which build a word are called „*root*"in Semitic languages. In Hebrew it is also called „binyan" which literaly means „building". Imagine consonants as the building blocks of the word)
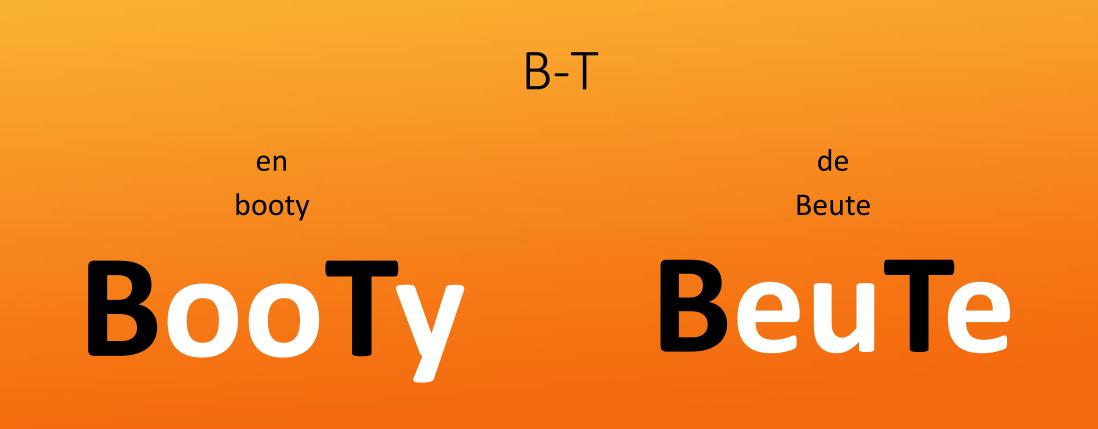
en (=english)

de (=deutsch)

fist

Faust

FiST   FauST

R-M

en
room

de
Raum

RooM   RauM

F-R

en

for

de

für

FoR   FüR

G-S-T

en
guest

de
Gast

GueST   **GaST**

G-S-T

en
ghost

de
Geist

G(h)oST

GeiST

B-T

en
booty

de
Beute

BooTy

BeuTe

B-R-S-T

en
breast

de
Brust

BReaST

BRuST

R-S-T

en

rest

ReST

de

Rast

RaST

S-T-N

en
stone

de
Stein

SToNe

STeiN

B-N

en
bone

de
Bein

BoNe

BeiN

B-L-DT (B-L-D / B-L-T)

en
blood

de
Blut

BLooD

BLuT