Konjunktiv Eins
(also known as: special subjunctive, newspaper subjunctive, present-stem subjunctive)

**DEFINITION:**
Konjunktiv I is a special form of the verb. Konjunktiv I is the equivalent of a quote. It indicates that the author of an article or story is reporting what a third party said. Konjunktiv I is a formal style used in newspaper writing or literature to show indirect speech. Occasionally, Konjunktiv I appears in spoken language but is found far more frequently in formal written style.

**REPORTED SPEECH:**
In reported speech, there are three “participants,” the author, the reader and a third person. When the author speaks of information known to him, he uses the indicative. However, when the author reports to the reader what a third person said, the words of the third person are relayed to the reader in Konjunktiv I (in formal written German). These words from the third person are not quoted directly, rather they are slightly paraphrased. This re-working of what the third person said is called reported speech.

Der Geschäftsführer sagt, er müsse mindestens siebzig Stunden in der Woche arbeiten. (Konjunktiv I)
(The head of the business says he needs to work at least seventy hours a week.)

Compare the above example of indirect speech to the example below of direct speech.

Der Geschäftsführer sagt: „Ich muss mindestens siebzig Stunden in der Woche arbeiten.” (Indikativ)
(The head of the business says, “I need to work at least seventy hours a week.”)

**BASIC FORM OF KONJUNKTIV EINS:**
Konjunktiv I is based on the infinitive of the verb (also called present-stem of the verb). Since Konjunktiv I appears typically in third person singular only, it is not necessary to learn the full set of conjugations for this verb form. Forms for second person singular exist but are rarely used. Plural is not used except with the verb sein (see below).

The 3rd person singular conjugation of Konjunktiv I is the stem of verb plus the ending -e. **Compare this to the indicative present singular conjugations where the verb typically ends in -t.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Konjunktiv I</th>
<th>Präsens Indikativ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sie mache</td>
<td>sie macht</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>es werde</td>
<td>es wird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>er habe</td>
<td>er hat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Konjunktiv I is never used in the plural except for the verb sein (see below). Instead, Konjunktiv II is used where indirect speech is reported. Because the plural forms for Konjunktiv I are identical to the indicative, Konjunktiv II (which is different from the indicative) is employed to distinguish the indirect speech from indicative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Konjunktiv II</th>
<th>Konjunktiv I (not used)</th>
<th>Präsens Indikativ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hätten</td>
<td>haben</td>
<td>haben</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>können</td>
<td>können</td>
<td>können</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>würden</td>
<td>werden</td>
<td>werden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The verb *sein* has special forms in both singular and plural:

- **Konjunktiv I “sein” 3sg**
  - sei

- **Konjunktiv I “sein” 3pl**
  - seien

Die Mitarbeiter behaupten, sie seien mit der Lohnerhöhung sehr zufrieden.
(The workers claim they are very happy with the raise.)

**FRAME AND REPORTED SPEECH:**
When the author tells a story or creates a news article, he sets up a frame in which the events of the story unfold. If within this frame are couched words of people whom the author is indirectly quoting, then the words of those people are relayed to the reader as reported speech. Reported speech is also known as indirect discourse - *Indirekte Rede*. In order to understand the time and tense of reported speech in German, it is essential that the reader be aware of the time of the frame. Look at the following example and find the frame and the reported speech. The underlined verbs indicate the frame of the story and the verbs in italic indicate reported speech.

Yesterday morning, several demonstrators were arrested when they blocked the entrance to the Grundig electronics factory. When asked how long she was planning on continuing with the demonstration, Ursula Stüpping, chairperson of the local union, said she would fight the current administration until all of the pay issues were resolved.

Note the contrast to Ursula's speech if it had been reported directly as a quotation in the example below:

Ursula Stüpping said, “I will fight the current administration until all of the pay issues are resolved.”

Note that reported speech is a slight paraphrase of what was actually said. In the paraphrase, some of the pronouns and some of the verbs are restated in a different form to help indicate that the speech is reported. When examining reported speech in German, it is important to determine the time of the frame and then identify the form of the indirect discourse (the paraphrase).

**FORMS AND MEANINGS OF KONJUNKTIV EINS IN GERMAN:**
In the following examples, the frame verbs are underlined and the reported speech (Konjunktiv I) is in italic. The numbers after each example refer to the patterns listed in the reference chart that follows below.

**SIMPLEX FORM**  
(Konjunktiv I alone)

The indirect discourse is expressed with a single verb in Konjunktiv I.

The time of the paraphrase (Konjunktiv I) matches the time of the frame. (Look to the frame verb to determine the time.) If the frame is in present time and the form of Konjunktiv I is simplex then the time of the paraphrase (Konj) is present. If the frame is in past time and the form of Konjunktiv I is simplex then the time of the paraphrase (Konj) is past.

Examples where Konjunktiv I is simplex so its time matches that of the frame:
- frame verb in present time / Konj I = present: Die Leiterin sagt, sie arbeitet viel. - The director says she works a lot. (1)
- frame verb in past time / Konj I = past: Die Leiterin sagte, sie arbeitete viel. - The director said she worked a lot. (5)
**PERFECT FORM**  
(habe or sei + Partizip II)

The indirect discourse is expressed with the auxiliary verb in Konjunktiv I + the lexical verb appears as Partizip II.

The time of the paraphrase (Konjunktiv I) is one step back in time from the frame. One step back from present is past, ex: She sees -- She saw; one step back from past is remote past. Ex: She saw -- She had seen. The remote past in English is expressed as: had + past participle. Ex: had gone, had eaten, had worked, had lived, etc. If the frame is in present time and the form of Konjunktiv I is perfect, then the time of the paraphrase (Konj) is past. If the frame is in past time and the form of Konjunktiv I is perfect then the time of the paraphrase is remote past. (Note: Remote Past has several names such as “pluperfect, past perfect” and in German “Plusquamperfekt.”)

The following examples show Konjunktiv I in perfect, the time of Kon I is one step back in the past from the time of the frame:

frame in present / Konj I = past: Die Leiterin sagt, sie habe viel gearbeitet. - The director *says* she worked a lot. (2)
frame in past / Konj I = remote past: Sie sagte, sie sei in dem Gebäude geblieben. - She *said* she had stayed in the building. (6)
frame in past / Konj I = remote past: Die Leiterin hat gesagt, sie habe viel gearbeitet. - The director *said* she had worked a lot. (6)

**MODAL VERBS + Konjunktiv I**  
(modal verb + infinitive)

The indirect discourse (the paraphrase) is expressed with a modal verb in Konjunktiv I + the lexical verb is an infinitive.

Treat these forms the same as if they were simplex Konjunktiv I. Put the modal into the same time as that of the frame. (You may need to paraphrase the modal, especially if the report is in past time.)

The following examples show Konjunktiv I in a modal verb the paraphrased modal in English:

frame present / Konj I = present modal: Die Leiterin sagt, sie müsse viel arbeiten. - The director *says* she has to work a lot. (3)
frame past / Konj I = past modal: Die Leiterin sagte, sie müsse viel arbeiten. - The director *said* she had to work a lot. (7)
frame past / Konj I = past modal: Die Leiterin hat gesagt, sie müsse viel arbeiten. - The director *said* she had to work a lot. (7)
frame present / Konj I = pres. modal: Die Leiterin sagt, sie solle viel arbeiten. - The director *says* she is supposed to work a lot. (3)
frame past / Konj I = past modal: Die Leiterin sagte, sie solle viel arbeiten. - The director *said* she was supposed to work a lot. (7)
frame past / Konj I = past: Die Leiterin hat gesagt, sie solle viel arbeiten. - The director *said* she was supposed to work a lot. (7)

**WERDE (future)**  
(werde + infinitive)

The indirect discourse (the paraphrase) is expressed with werden in Konjunktiv I + the lexical verb as an infinitive.

If the frame is in present time and the form of Konjunktiv I is werden then werde translates to will.
If the frame is in past time and the form of Konjunktiv I is werden then werde translates to would.

The following examples show Konjunktiv I as werden and how that translates into English:
frame in present / Konj I = will: Die Leiterin sagt, sie werde viel arbeiten. - The director *says* she will work a lot. (4)
frame in past / Konj I = would: Die Leiterin sagte, sie werde viel arbeiten. - The director *said* she would work a lot. (8)
frame in past / Konj I = would: Die Leiterin hat gesagt, sie werde viel arbeiten. - The director *said* she would work a lot. (8)
QUICK REFERENCE CHART:

When analyzing Konjunktiv I, apply the following hierarchy of analysis:

1. Read the German text and find the time of the frame, either past or present.
2. Determine the form of Konjunktiv I (simplex, perfect, modal, or werde).
3. Read down the chart to find the time of the paraphrase for the English equivalent.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of frame</th>
<th>(1)</th>
<th>(2)</th>
<th>(3)</th>
<th>(4)</th>
<th>(5)</th>
<th>(6)</th>
<th>(7)</th>
<th>(8)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The frame is in present time</td>
<td>simplex</td>
<td>perfect</td>
<td>modal</td>
<td>werde</td>
<td>simplex</td>
<td>perfect</td>
<td>modal</td>
<td>werden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time of paraphrase (or form of English verb)</td>
<td>present</td>
<td>past</td>
<td>pres modal</td>
<td>will + infinitive</td>
<td>past</td>
<td>remote past</td>
<td>past modal</td>
<td>would + infinitive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example Analysis:

Der Vorsitzende betonte, der Ausschuss habe einen lobenswerten Entschluss getroffen. (6)

frame verb = betonte (past) · discourse Konjunktiv I = habe getroffen (perfect) · time of the English paraphrase = remote past

(The chairman emphasized that the committee had reached an admirable decision.)

More Examples:

(1) Sie behauptet, sie kenne den Täter. She claims, she knows the perpetrator.
(5) Sie behauptete, sie kenne den Täter. She claimed, she knew the perpetrator.
(2) Sie behauptet, sie habe den Täter gekannt. She claims, she knew the perpetrator.
(6) Sie behauptete, sie habe den Täter gekannt. She claimed, she had known the perpetrator.
(3) Sie behauptet, sie wolle den Täter kennen. She claims, she wants to know the perpetrator.
(7) Sie behauptet, sie wolle den Täter kennen. She claimed, she wanted to know the perpetrator.
(4) Sie behauptet, sie werde den Täter kennen. She claims, she will know the perpetrator.
(8) Sie behauptete, sie werde den Täter kennen. She claimed, she would know the perpetrator.

KONJUNKTIV ZWEI IN PLURAL

Konjunktiv I is not used in the plural except with the verb sein. In the plural Konjunktiv II is used to indicate indirect speech. Konjunktiv II is used sometimes in the singular with verbs other than sein. See the following examples:

Die Ärztin glaubt, ihre Patienten hätten ein Virus. (Konj II) The doctor believes her patients have a virus.
Die Bürger sagen, sie seien unzufrieden. (Konj I) The citizens say they are dissatisfied.
Die Bürger sagen, sie wären unzufrieden. (Konj II) The citizens say they were dissatisfied.
Die Bürger sagen, sie seien unzufrieden gewesen. (Konj II) The citizens say they were dissatisfied.
Der Blinde meint, er habe seine Sicht wieder. (Konj I) The blind man thinks he has his sight again.
Der Blinde meint, er hätte seine Sicht wieder. (Konj II) The blind man thinks he has his sight again.
Der Bundeskanzler behauptet, die Ostdeutschen würden in kurzer Zeit mit ihrer Lage zurechtkommen. The chancellor of the republic claims that the East Germans will deal with their situation in a short time.