German Particles Cheat Sheet

doch, ja, mal, halt, eben, schon and friends: what they add and how natives use them.

Particle	What it adds	Example	English feel
doch	Encouragement, contradiction; "yes" to a negative question	Komm doch mit! – Hast du keine Zeit? – Doch!	Come along, why don't you! – Yes, I do!
ja	Surprise or shared knowledge	Das ist ja toll! / Du weißt ja, …	Wow, that's great! / As you know, …
mal	Softens requests, casual tone	Kannst du mal kommen?	Can you come here for a sec?
halt	Resignation: that's how it is	Das ist halt so.	That's just the way it is.
eben	Like halt; also "exactly"	Dann eben nicht. / Eben!	Fine, then not. / Exactly!
schon	Reassurance, concession	Das klappt schon. / Das ist schon gut, aber…	It'll work out. / It is good, but…
denn	Interest or curiosity in questions	Was ist denn los?	So what's going on?
wohl	Assumption	Er ist wohl krank.	He's probably ill.
eigentlich	Actually; changing the topic politely	Wie heißt du eigentlich?	What's your name, by the way?
bloß / nur	Warning or urgent wish	Mach das bloß nicht!	Don't you dare do that!

Tip: particles are unstressed and usually come after the verb and pronouns. Learn them in whole phrases, not as single words.