Ask the Locals

100 Questions you may have had for a long time.



Why 'Ask the Locals'?

When you are moving to a new country, it can be difficult and nerve-wracking. You might worry that the language barrier will make socializing with locals too awkward or challenging for your current level of proficiency in German. Our mission is to break this language barrier and make internationals feel more comfortable with the German culture. We're here to make sure that when you are in Germany we do everything possible so that you are able to integrate within the German society and feel at home here!

We've compiled a list of questions that you might have, no matter how silly they may seem. Whether it's "What do you do on Sundays?" or "What is your best ideas for a first date?", we help you find your answer! This book contains answers to the questions by local Germans themselves. We want you to know that you are not the only one who have these questions in mind. We have all been there!

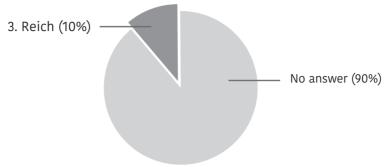
Who are we?

● BookoLocol is a platform where internationals can book local helpers nearby for assistance with tasks like paperwork, attending appointments at government offices together, where speaking German is required.

It's like Uber, but instead of a taxi you get a helpful local on the way to you!

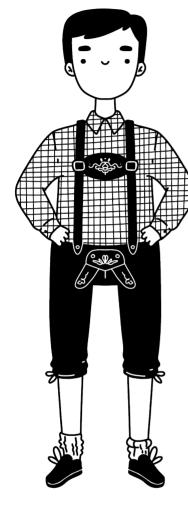
Visit our website to know more: www.booka-local.com

Which topics are better not to talk about / ask (yet) when someone just arrives in Germany?



You would be impressed when an international person ...







Germans love punctuality. (Helga, 57)



Traffic rules. (Luca, 27)



Not all Germans are unfriendly and stupid, but many are. (Jonas, 30)



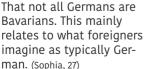
Warm welcome. (Marie, 24)



Train tickets must be validated. (Lea, 27)



Hardly affordable housing. It is very hard to find something. (Noah, 30)



That Germans only wear leather pants in Bavaria in the Oktoberfest. (Anna, 24)

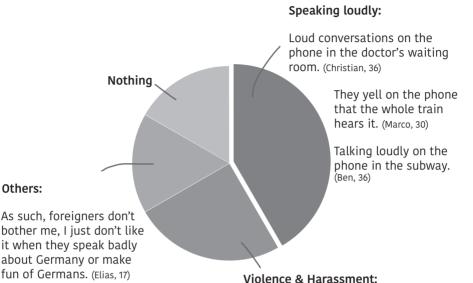


Even if they sometimes experience rejection, not any reason to learn all Germans are like that. German. (Paul. 25) And integration always involves both sides. (Mia, 30)



In Berlin, there is hardly

Something some foreigners do in public and which annoys you.



Eating sunflower seeds and spitting the shells everywhere. (Melanie, 27)

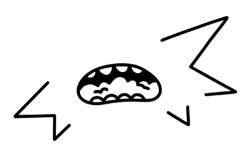
Others:

Stand in the middle of the way/ walk slowly (that generally annoys me, regardless of whether they are a tourist or where they are from). (Hannah, 25)

Violence annoys me. (Heidi, 57)

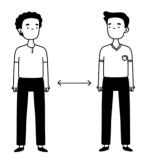
Walking up to younger girls in groups scary ... but also with non-foreigners. (Anna, 24)

Name one thing that some foreigners usually do that you consider rude.



Smacking while eating. (Birgit, 57) Chewing sunflower seeds and spitting them out. (Melanie, 27)

Drinking without bumping (cheers). (Finn, 24)



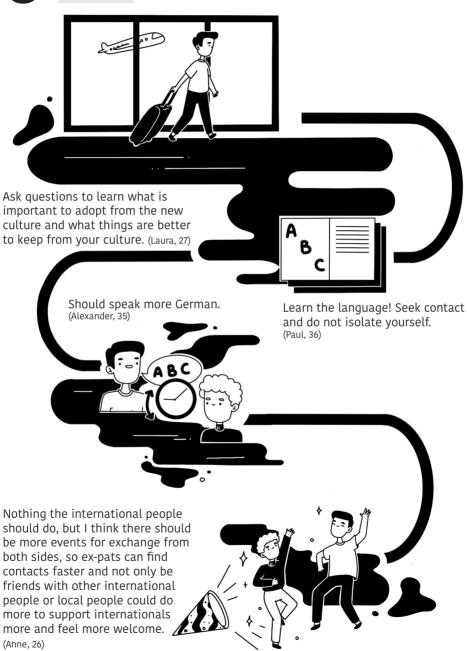
Sometimes keeping too little distance. (Hannah, 27)

Talking on the phone loudly in public (Alexander, 35)
Being loud! (Julia, 22)

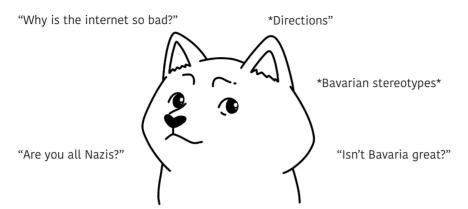
Riding a lime scooter in the middle of the street. (Luca, 25)

No concrete answer possible without generalizing. (Michelle, 24)

What can the international people do to integrate with the locals?



One thing you wish some foreigners would stop asking you.



Do you think it is good or bad to be direct?

8

I prefer direct dialogue. (Harry, 36)

It's good for me, but if you don't know it, it can sometimes be hurtful. (Paula, 27)

It is good to be direct, although sometimes people get hurt by it. (Fabio, 29)

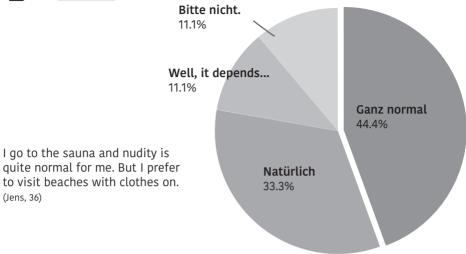
Good! (But stay sensitive and think before you speak). (Niklas, 36)

It depends on the situation but being direct is what I personally love.

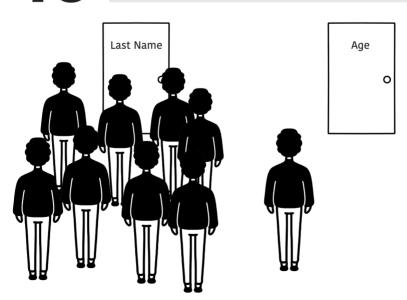
(Anna, 25)

Bad Depends Mostly good Good

Nudity in the sauna or on the beach, what is your opinion?



What is more private to you, your last name or your age? (for people you have only known for 10 mins)



What time do you wake up and sleep?





What counts as good luck for you?



When I am late at the platform and the train also happens to be late.
(Viktoria, 30)



A very positive surprise. (Christian, 30)



When people survive serious illness. (Sabrina, 27)



when something good happens although I had nothing to do with it. (Elias, 25)



When friends unexpectedly cross my path. (Ben, 24)



Four-leaf clover (Emma, 24)

13

What counts as bad luck for you.



Friday the 13th (Helene, 57)



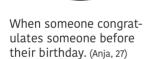
A broken mirror. (Harry, 36)



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If I miss the subway and think the next one is coming in five minutes and then there is a doctor emergency somewhere. (Emma, 24)





To be negative about a situation. (Martin, 26)





Not to answer messages.
(Paul, 20)



"Anstoßen über Kreuz" (Marco, 27)

I associate the word misfortune with an accident, such as a train wreck or alike. No superstition! (Paula, 30)

Is there still a difference between East Berlin and West Berlin?

Ja

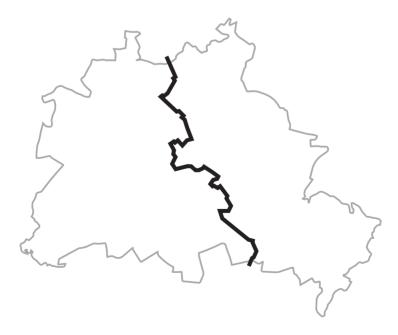
 \dots wages and salaries are still not aligned, and some people still have the wall in their heads. (Harry, 36)

... salaries, for example, are often still different. The architecture, etc. Also, the attitude of a lot of people. (Martina, 27)

... from the look alone. (Anja, 26)

 \dots one part of Berlin is in the East, the other in the West. $\mbox{\scriptsize (Martin, 30)}$

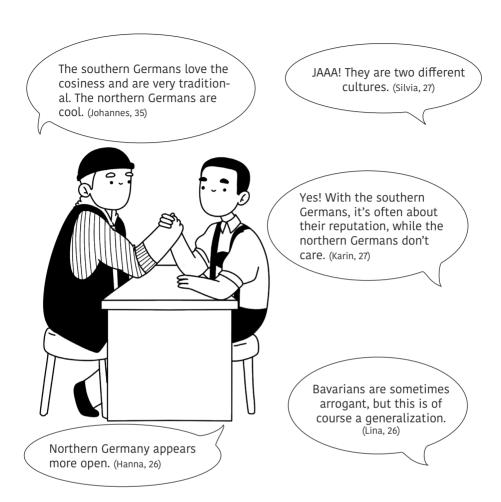
... better salary in the West; the East is livelier. (Markus, 26)



Is there a cultural difference between Southern Germany and Northern Germany? If so, what is it?



There is a gradient in Germany, you can say the further south the more conservative people are. People in the north are cool and liberal, in the south more cordial but more conservative. In the north more fish, in the south more meat. As I said, this is a rough guide. In general, Germany is quite different in its regions in terms of mind-set, dialect, culture, food, customs, and so on. (Jens, 36)

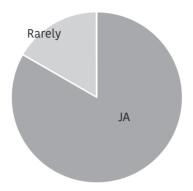


There are cultural differences between regions in Germany. Even between Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg. A prejudice against Bavaria is possibly regional patriotism. Or socializing in the Bierstübl. I think, however, one should not refer to the Munich Schickeria or the Oktoberfest to the whole of Bavaria. Baden-Württemberg stands for a lot of money and industriousness, but also for stuffiness.

Northern Germans are said to have a roughness and a sober manner. They often don't talk to people directly and prefer to keep to themselves. But once you've cracked the ice, there's a warm core underneath. I think the statement "hard shell, soft core" applies well. (Emilia, 30)

I think so. I find, for example, people in Bavaria are very proud to come from Bavaria and live partly in their own world, giving the impression that they would be something better than everyone else. (Bianca, 26)

16Do you follow politics in Germany?



If there is one law you can change in Germany, what is it?



The tax law (Harry, 36)



Rent cap (Sabrina, 27)



Store Closure Act. (Daniel, 37)

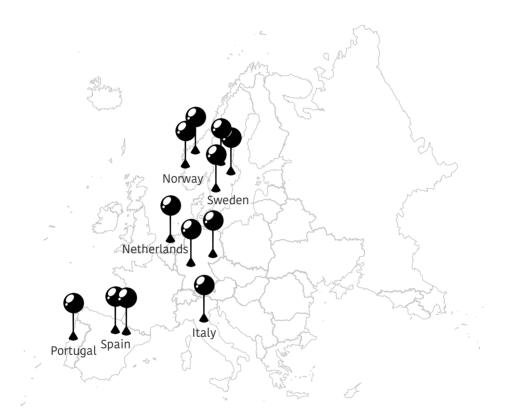


Infection Protection Act (Lukas, 24)



Car-free Sundays (Anna, 26)

Do you like another European country more than Germany? If yes, which one?



One thing in Germany that bugs you



Bureaucracy. (Max, 26)

Bureaucracy. (Nadine, 27)

Bureaucracy - everything is always so complicated and the employees are often so unfriendly. (Anna, 27)

That progressive topics/trends always take a little longer. (Lucas, 25)



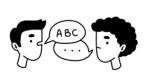
Petty neighbors (Maria, 30)



Too many cars (Florian, 30)



Stuffiness / Bourgeoisness (Birgit, 57)



Nazis and the German language (Michael, 26)



"Reliability" of the railroad (Marcel, 24)

Your opinion towards customer service in Germany.



Crappy. (Paul, 36)

Often bad, sometimes good. (Jenny, 27)

Non-existent. Absolute desert. (Steve, 36)

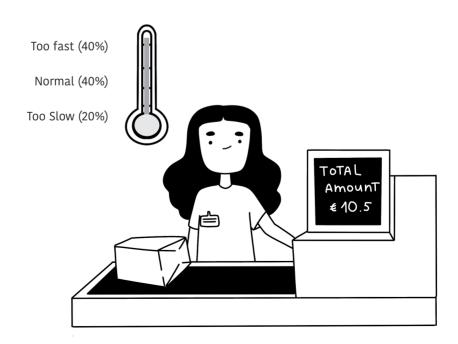
Have no experience yet. (Jan, 16)

*ه چ*سا

I'm always surprised when you can reach someone quickly by phone and have a nice and helpful employee - has actually happened more often lately.

The speed of supermarket cashiers is ... for you?





22 "Supermarkets should also open on Sundays", do you agree or disagree?



Your opinion towards registering your address in Bürgeramt? Is it necessary?

It is questionable whether this annoying bureaucratic effort is of any use. (Marc, 36)

It's annoying more than anything else. It could just forward the landlord and be done. (Franziska, 26)



Do you always pay when you want to use the public restroom?



What would you suggest for someone to bring from their home country before flying to Germany?

25



26 What relaxes you?



Programming (Sebastian, 30)



Jogging, listeing to music (Julia, 57)



The loved ones (Dominik, 25)



Sunny Sundays (Steven, 24)



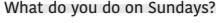
Cinema (George, 26)



Listening to podcast (Michaela, 30)



Meditation (Paula, 27)





Joint and couch / park (Franziska, 27)



Watch TV (Sven, 32)



Everything I would do any other day, iust a little slower. (Julia, 27)



Visiting people, friends and family (Anna, 26)



Paperwork or study (Elia, 36)



Chilling and everything I didn't get done on Saturday and still need to do for the week; housework like laundry etc. (Daniel, 36)



Jogging (Birgit, 57)



Watch Tatort in favorite bar (Alex, 24)

Did you know?



When you encounter situations like these:

- The customer service refuses to speak to you on the phone in English
- Your landlord comes to check your apartment and he only speaks
- You got tons of paperwork in German to do

You can actually book a bilingual local helper on www.booka-local.com.

Why Booka Local?

We as internationals, know how difficult it can be to feel like you don't belong in a new land with a different language and culture. When you feel like no one understands or cares about the challenges that come with living outside your home country, it can make everything seem overwhelming and difficult to deal with on top of all those other things we take for granted back at home such as language barriers. That is why we are here to help internationals integrate better in Germany. We want to guide newcomers through the German bureaucracy while settling into Germany comfortably and unstressed.



Easy booking process



Less stress for you



Friendly local helpers

How does it work?

Choose the service you need.

Calling your internet company? Registering your new address? Visiting the doctor? Checking out Kita for your kid?

Choose the time and date.

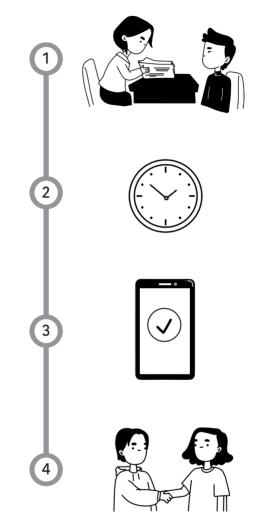
If it is an in-person appointment, please book it as soon as possible. ;)

Pay & Wait for the confirmation

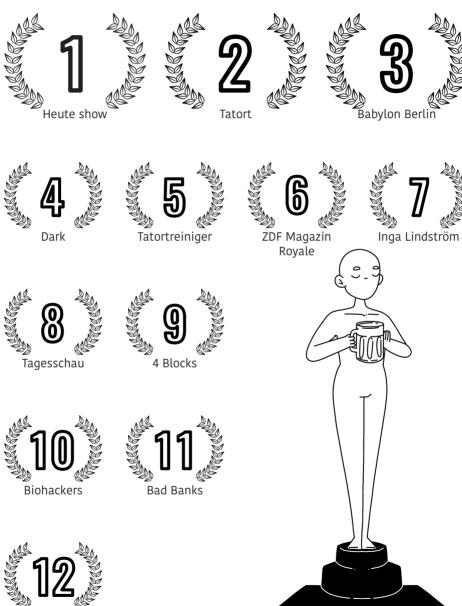
After your booking is made, available helpers will be matched with you shortly. You will then receive the contact details of the assigned helper.

Meet your local helper

When it is an online service (like paperwork or forms filling) or a phone call. you will meet your helper on zoom.

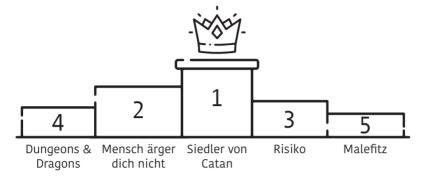


The best German television show you are watching right now.

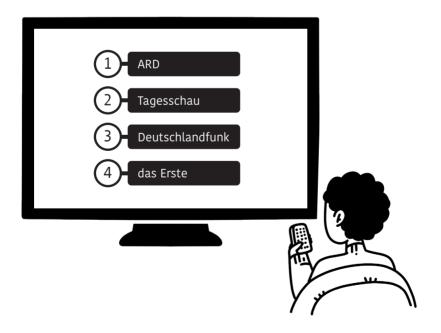


Bernd das Brot

What is your favorite board game? 29



What is your favorite news channel? 30



31

What newspapers do you read?

- (1) Taz
- (3) Focus
- ild
- (4) Brandens



Zeitung

- (5) Berliner Morgenpost
- (7) Tagesspiegel
- (6) Süddeutsche Zeitung
- (8) Gelegentlich Spiegel

What do you usually bring when you are invited to a dinner party?



Cake or dessert (Lea, 26; Sarah, 24; Emma, 23)



Chips and good mood (Ben, 30)



Salad (Markus, 36)



Wine, beer, gin, alcohol or drinks (Hannah, 27; Lea, 26; Sarah, 24; Leon, 36)





34

Describe your favourite day in summer.



30°C on the beach (Harry, 36)



At the lake on a floaty with beer and music (Nicole, 27)



Lying by the lake and having a barbecue with friends in the evening. (Lisa, 26)



Outdoor dine and wine (Lukas, 24)

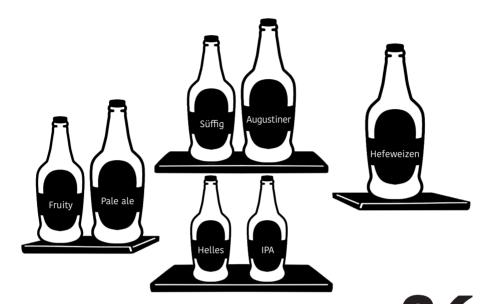


Cigarette with a beer and friends
(Marcel, 24)

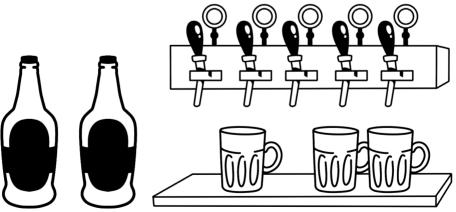


Have a long breakfast and sit on the lawn and swim in the lake. (Anna, 30)

Describe your favourite type of beer. 35



What beer do you always order in a bar?



Berliner Kindl Pilsner Urquell (Harry, 35) (Marc, 36)

75%: Anything fresh from the tap

What do you always order in bars, besides beer?



Mexikaner (Lisa, 27; Marc, 30)



Cocktail (Heidi, 57; Anita, 30; Lea, 25)



Single Malt Scotch (Lukas, 36)



Gin tonic (Jens, 58; Katrin, 27; Julian, 36)



Wine or Schorle (wine with water) (Anna, 27; Lia, 24)



Die Rechnung (Max, 30)

The best snack/food to go with your beer

Pommes

Peanuts



Pizza



Sushi



Chips

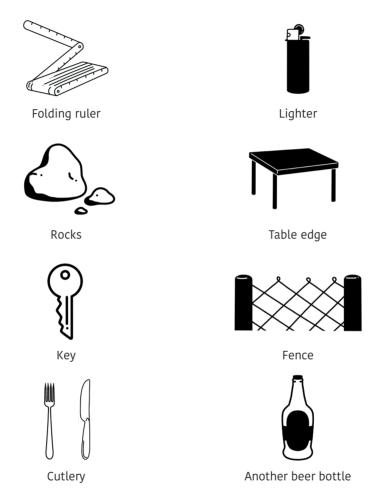
Cheese bread

Schnitzel



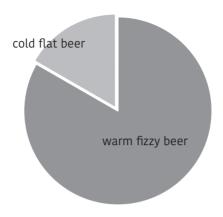


Name everything you can open a beer bottle with 39

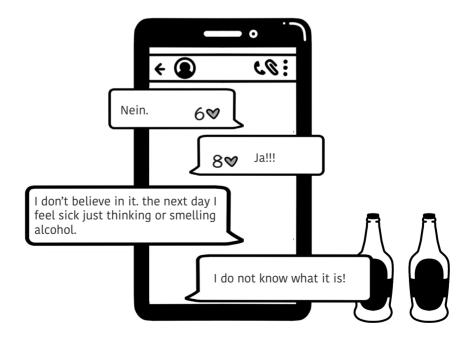


"Name everything that cannot be used to open beer" would be a shorter list (Anna, 27)

40 Which is worse: warm fizzy beer or cold flat beer?

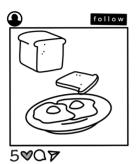


Do you believe in Konterbier?



What do you eat for breakfast?

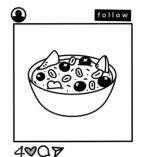
42



Bread with fried egg



Dark bread, cheese and salami

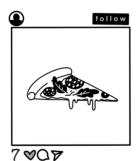


Muesli with oat milk

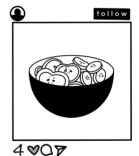
What does your typical dinner look like?



Bread, cheese and salami/cold cuts



Pizza



Salad



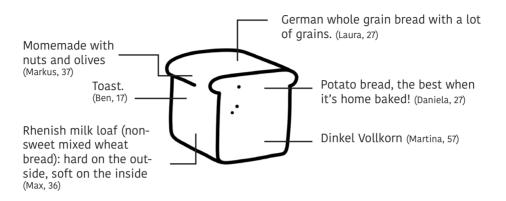
Pasta



10A0A

Sausage and bread

Describe your favourite type of bread.



45 What do you think about white bread?

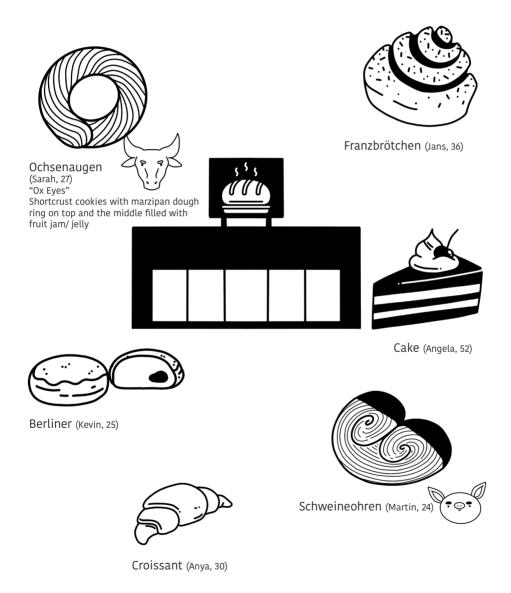
I like it, but it doesn't fill you up. (Antonia, 27)

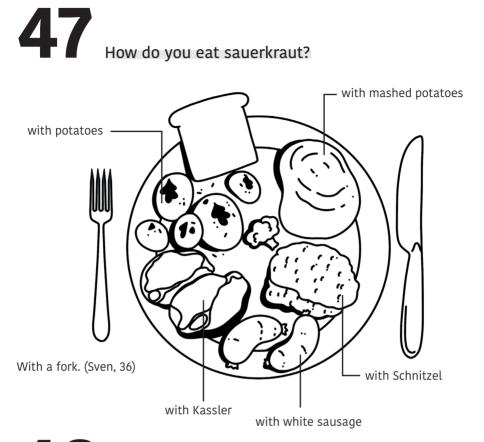
It is unhealthy. I prefer dark bread. (Marc. 36)

It's ok (even though it's rather unhealthy). (Paul, 36)



Your favorite baked good (other than bread)





48 What's your opinion about Mett?

Delicious, but it must be well done and fresh!!! (Alex, 36)

> Sometimes really good, sometimes disgusting. (Nadine, 27)

Strange. (Katrin, 24) Disgusting. (Stephen, 29) Nope. (Jenny, 27) Only fried! (Micheala, 30) I don't eat it. (Anna, 26) Very unhealthy. (Harry, 36)



Delicious NEIN!

What do you do if the food you order in a restaurant doesn't taste good?

49



I eat it anyway or as much as I can but wouldn't complain. (Emma, 27)



Eat and never go to that restaurant again. (Lisa, 27)

I choke down half of it decently and will never eat there again. (Jan, 36)



Eat anyway and tip less. (Sofia, 30)



I remain polite and ask the waiter to take the food away. (Erik, 37)



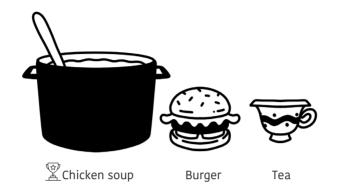
If it doesn't taste good at all; e.g., very salty or burnt, I'll send it back. (Steven, 33)

How much do you tip when you order a food delivery for, say, 17 euros?

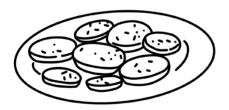
50



What's your go-to healing/cuddly food when you're sick? when you're sick?



52 Which German food is your favorite?



Fried potatoes (Paula, 27)



Curry sausage (Ben, 25)



Mashed potatoes with sauerkraut (Maria, 57)



Dumpling and apple red cabbage (Mia, 26)

One German food that international people should really try. 53



Schweinshaxe (Alex, 34)



Rhenish potato salad with sausages, "Löwen" mustard and egg. (Lucas, 36)

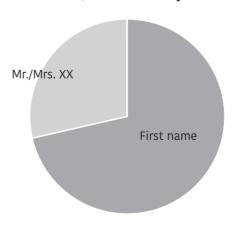


Milka chocolate (Sabrina, 26)



Bernese sausages (Daniela, 28)

Do you address your boss as Mr./Mrs. XX or by first name?



How do you feel when a colleague invites you for a drink after work?

It depends on how well I know the colleague. If we had little contact beforehand, I would find it uncomfortable. (Kim, 25)

ehhh, I just wanna go home. (Emma, 28)

It depends on how the relationship is. Mostly gladly. (Sarah, 27)



If I like the person well, it's also nice to see each other out of context after work. (Lisa, 26)

He or she wants something from me. E.g., a favor. (Harry, 32)

I probably wouldn't feel like it and just want to go home. (Lea, 25)

What is your opinion about the birthday girl/boy bringing cakes to the office?

Nice, but most people don't know how to bake. :D (Danny, 35)

I like it a lot. (Klaus, 30)

I find it stupid. I think it would be nicer if colleagues would bring something. I find it funny that the person who has a birthday must invite everyone and "must" prepare something—it should be the other way around. (Nadine, 26)



Very nice when it is home baked.
(Marc, 36)

Great, I love cakes. (Anna, 23)

Very cool! (Catherine, 24)

I think it's nice:)
(Julianne, 23)

Do you mind when a new colleague follows or asks to follow you on social media?

57



66.7% 22.2% 11.1%

I don't mind

I do mind

It depends

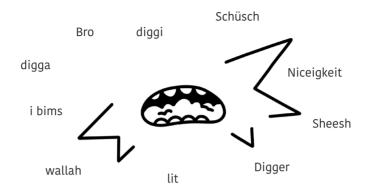
Follow?

The most "German" German word for you.

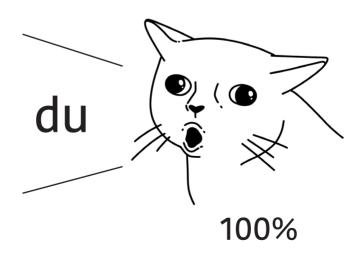
58



59 One slang word that you really hate

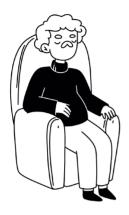


60 Do you address your boss as "du" or "Sie"?



Do you say "du" or "Sie" to your elderly neighbor?





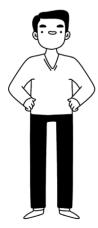


When was the last time you felt insulted when addressed as "du"?

"I actually like that!"

"Never!"

"When an employee of a partner used "du" to me."



15.4%



76.9%



7.7%

63 How would you call your parent-in-law?



What is your opinion on the gender (der, die, das) in German grammar?



"Bullshit"

"It's just German grammar"

"Possibly pointless"

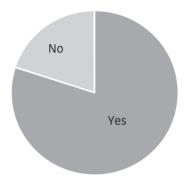
"It is normal for me."

"Annoying"



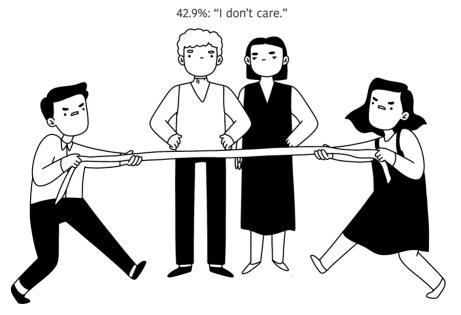
Like Dislike

Do you also date people who don't speak German?



Do you prefer foreigners to speak broken German or fluent English to you if it is just a matter of communication?

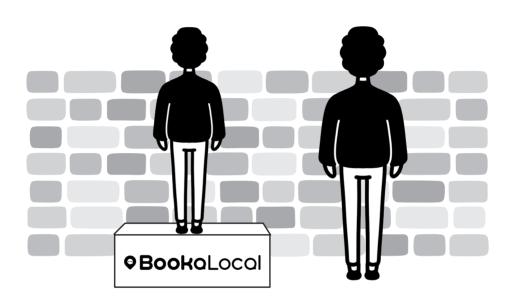




28.6%: "Fluent English"

28.6%: "Broken German"

Just so you know:

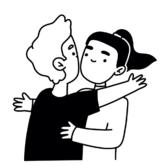


"

When the language barrier knocks you down, we lift you up.

"

Pro Bono Service of Booka Local

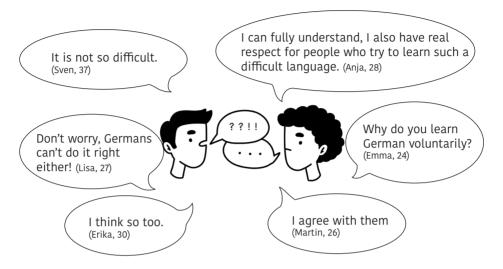


If you are a victim of sexual assaults in Germany, and you are worried about going through all the processes when your German is limited, we got your back.

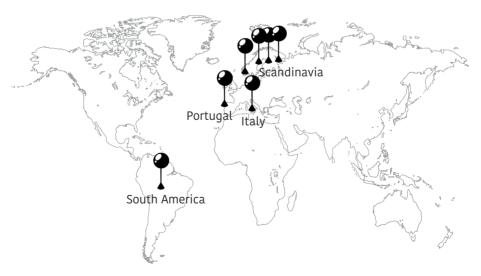
Booka Local will support you with filing police reports or any language-related procedures <u>for free</u>. Please book our pro bono service in the following ways:

- Email to info@booka-local.com; email subject: Pro Bono
- Use our booking system with this code: HERE4U

When foreigners complain that German is a difficult language, what is your reaction?



What is your favourite holiday destination?



What do you miss about Germany when you go traveling?





The German bread (Everyone)



(Paul, 16)



(Anna, 26)



The German supermarkets My own four walls and my bed. (Marvin, 36)



Rules (Andrea, 30)



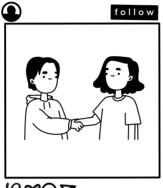
Döner (Ben, 24)

70 One small town that you must visit in Germany



Do you shake hands with or hug the people you just met?







Shake hands



500P

Hug

How long does it take for you to consider a new person you just met as a friend or what does it take to do so?

72

The chemistry must fit and then it depends on how you can support or complement each other. Therefore, the time does not play a role for me. (Klaus, 38)

As soon as you realize that you are equally stupid/ have the same sense of humor. (Katrin, 28)

Shared Experiences. (Lea, 27)

Sometimes only a smile (Paul, 24)

Time and trust. (Martina, 56)



If we spend a lot of time together it can take only a week until I can call him/her a friend. Of course, it's easier when you're at university because the dynamics and circumstances there are more relaxed, but you can also make good friends at work if there are common interests. (0la, 22)

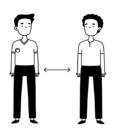
Common values/moral views and constructive discussions with a different attitude. (Mia, 24)

How do you feel about strangers or new friends being too friendly to you or getting too close? being too friendly to you or getting too close?

I do not like it and it seems repulsive to me. (Marcel, 35)

I sometimes find it scary when people get too close to me, it often stresses me out. (Katrin, 27)

I do not like (Nicole, 26)



It's a little uncomfortable, but it depends on the person. (Ben, 24)

I do not like. (Mia. 28)

Friendly is great. Coming too close does not work at all and has nothing to do with friendliness. (Sarah, 30)

What do you give as a birthday present? (e.g. for colleagues, not super close friends).





Bouquet of flowers (Jenny, 28)



Chocolate (Birgit, 57)



Alcohol (Lucas, 24)



Vouchers (Florian, 30)



Book (Julia, 27)

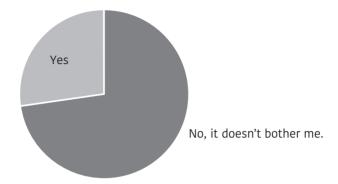


Cake (Harry, 36)



Cookies (Anita, 27)

Does it bother you if you don't get birthday gifts? f your friends meet you on or after your birthday). (If your friends meet you on or after your birthday).



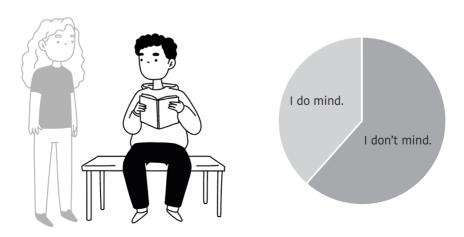
Do you require your friends to ask for your form posting a group photo with you permission before posting a group photo with you



Would you approach a stranger if you thought he/she was attractive?



Do you mind being approached by a stranger who finds you attractive?



The best way to approach a stranger (or a crush).

79

Cafés are a good place for rapprochement. If a stranger is reading a book, you can ask about the book and start a conversation. Perspective of an introvert: Waiting until you are approached. (Franziska, 26)

(Thomas, 25)

Interesting conversations.
(Heidi, 57)

Open and honest conversations. (Erika, 30)

Shared interests, movies, music.

(Markus, 26)



Pizza. (Elia, 27)

Teasing. (Adam, 25)

The best first date ideas 80

A pub where you can play darts or billiards. You can have a drink and exercise. (Lucas. 26)

Walk in a park/ go out for something to eat. (Louisa, 24)

Eating ice cream on a walk. (Lea, 30)



A pub where you can play darts or billiards. You can have a drink and exercise. (Lucas, 26)

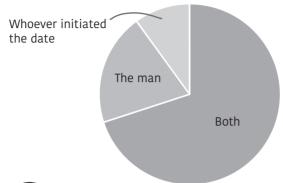
Musical. (Renate, 52)

Drinks, going out to eat. NO cinema! (Klaus, 36)

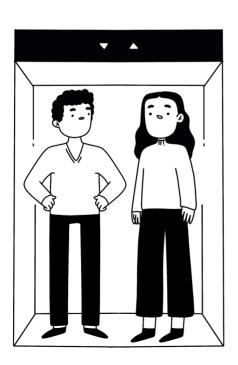
Bouldering. (Selina, 25)

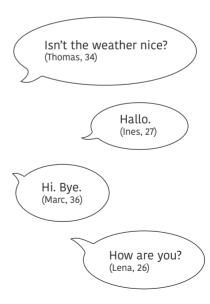
Bottle of wine and speaker in a park. (Selina, 25)

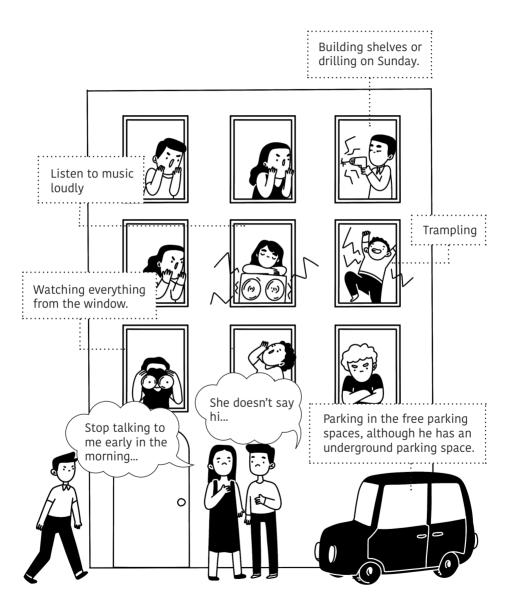
Who should pay on the first date?



82 What would you say/talk to your neighbour when you are in the elevator together?



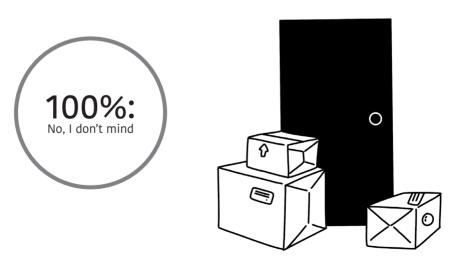




84 Have you ever reported a neighbor for being too loud, or have you been reported?

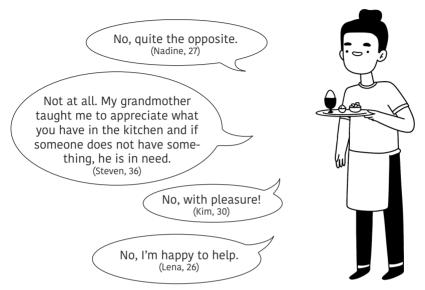


85Do you mind taking packages for your neighbor?



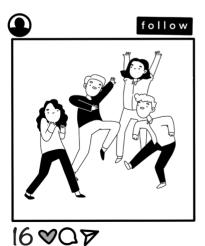
Do you mind when your neighbor comes to your house to borrow things like egg, salt or sugar?



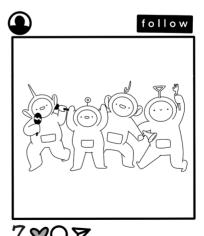


What's better: the party-animal neighbour or the neighbour with four kids?





Party-animal neighbour



Neighbour with four kids

B Do you think it is a must to offer your seat to the elderly?



The best opportunity to meet new people in Germany.



Facebook Groups (Nina, 27)



Work (Rene, 24)



Sports (Marco, 26)



House parties (Jens, 36)



Meetups of Booka Local (Sven. 36)



Cultural events (Maria, 53)

How do you think other people feel about Germans?

Drink a lot of beer. (Mario, 34)

Rule-abiding and humourless (1. True most of the time 2. Not true for me even if it occurs naturally) (Julia, 27)

I think others think more positively about us than Germans think about themselves. (Jan, 37)

"Punctual and cagey"— I don't agree with either of them.
(Lea, 26)

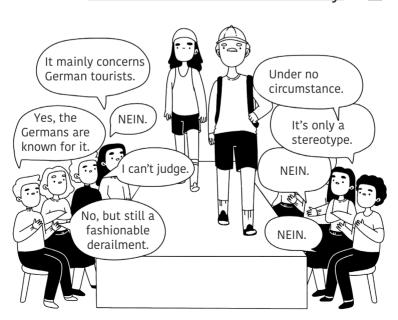
No sense of humour, dogged, aloof, but also punctual and effective - true in part, but not true of Germans as a whole. But I can understand why these stereotypes have arisen. (Paula, 26)

Uptight and bureaucratic. Yes, I agree. (Emma, 24)

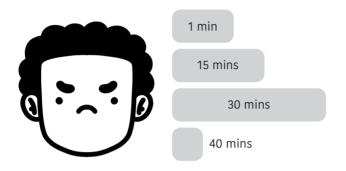
I have often heard that Germans are very direct. From my point of view, I don't think so, but I think that's a matter of opinion. So, what is normal for me (or Germans) can come across as very direct or even rude to others.

(Mia, 24)

Is the combo of "sock & sandal" the main fashion trend in Germany?



How late do you consider late? Suppose you meet a friend at a café.



93 What do you think about how Hollywood movies portray German people?

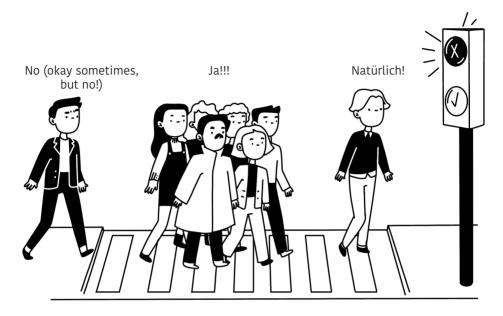
Totally clichéd and when they Outdated. do speak German it's usually (Lisa, 30) grammatically and stylistically incorrect, not to mention the mumbled pronunciation. (Lisa, 30) Nazis. (Harry, 36) Sometimes accurate, but not always. (Timo, 24) Unrealistic. (Karin, 25) As if we were all from Bavaria! (Hannah, 26)

What do you think about Lederhosen?



95 What do you think about Dirndl?



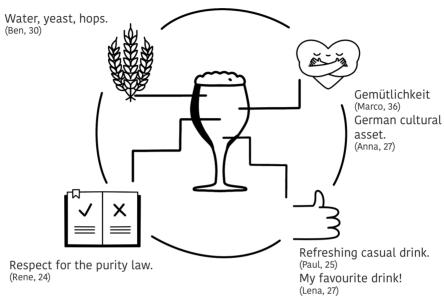


If you go to an island and you can only take one thing, which of these will you take: bread or potato?

97

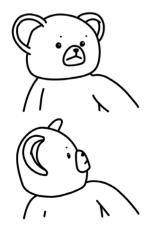


98 What is beer to you?



99

What do you think of the saying that Germans have no sense of humour?



False. (Emma, 27)

I don't understand it, of course our sense may be different, but I am sure that those who use the saying have never been in contact with Germans. (Michaela, 22)

Generally not true. (Renate, 55)

Not true! (Ola, 26)

Stereotype - bullshit. (Hannah, 24)

Mostly untrue. (Tobias, 25)

One German cliché you disagree with 100



That we all supposedly only eat sausages and sauer-kraut. (Marc, 36)

That all Germans wear dirndls and lederhosen all the time. (Julia, 27)

German punctuality. That was, once upon a time. (Thomas, 28)

The Germans are selfish and stingy. (Timo, 17)

The German never have a sense of humor. (Paula, 27)

Organized. (Birgit, 55)

All Germans are accurate and tidy! (Nadine, 30)

Lack of humor is not true. (Danny, 30)

German workmanship. (Uwe, 58)

Punctual. (Jena, 27)

Have no humour. (Kim, 24)

That we have no humour. (Lucas, 30)

All the buses and trains are always punctual here. (Oli, 36)

Germans are always punctual. (Steve, 25)

Germans have no sense of humour. (Martin, 26)

Punctuality. (Daniela, 25)

Lack of humor. (Erik, 25)

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