

# German Newsletter

Wir lernen, wir haben Spaß, wir diskutieren.

## Featured Profession – Tourism Industry Employee



Germans have a lot of vacation time, and they use it! Often they leave the country to enjoy this time off. Speaking German in the tourism industry in many areas means easier job searches and a higher rate of pay. Germans have been interested in the western states for generations now, having read the works of Karl May and other “wild west” stories. Often times, you will hear German visitors on the East Coast – the flights there are much cheaper and take less time. Although they do not expect people to speak German wherever they go, they are always thrilled to have someone who can understand them and are more likely to do business with those people than others. What about living in Europe? Speaking multiple languages, especially English and German opens up many positions in the tourism industry!

## Featured extra-curricular German: Netflix

There are many German films that pop in and out of Netflix’s library. I do recommend parent previewing, as some of the movies that claim to be German are not, and many end up being inappropriate. Recently I watched *Er ist wieder da!*, a film of Hitler coming to present day. Aside from a few swear words in the subtitles, the film is quite good and shows a lot of current events and problems.

Word of the Week:  
Affengeil

Affengeil is a modification of “geil,” which means “cool” for the younger generations of Germans and Austrians. Affengeil is like saying “super cool!”

Wissen Sie schon? Did you know?

Salzburg, Austria, very near the German border, is a travel destination for many different types of tourists. As the birthplace of Mozart, it is a home for many musical groups. It is also where the Sound of Music was based (and many scenes were filmed in the area) and there is a tour of the different sites. Additionally, Salzburg is nestled in the valley just outside of the alps, so the views are second to none. Salzburg prides itself on its tourism.

## News from the classroom: German 1

### German school system, using accusative

German 1 is learning about the verb haben (to have) and the accusative case. Students have been doing and will continue in class exercises on the topics, but students struggling with the concept should ask for more materials. They also have textbooks at home. The chart for haben is available on page 39.

In the past week, we focused on the fall of the Berlin Wall and Germany's reaction to current events.

## News from the classroom: German 2

### Past tense

German 2 has started watching “die Welle” and learning the vocabulary that goes along with it. Students are encouraged to work on the packet at home and ask questions in class when they get to difficult points. This packet is put together for intermediate-level German students and includes vocabulary and grammar exercises.

In addition to that, German 2 has been focused on the cause of the fall of the Berlin Wall and Germany's reaction to current events

## News from the classroom: German 3

### Berlin, Berlin!

The basis of the Berlin unit: Liebe Mauer, a romantic comedy about an East German border guard and a West German woman, and a chapter from a textbook called Stationen. In Liebe Mauer, we are learning a lot about history and culture (focusing on the cultural differences between East and West). In Stationen there will be an opportunity to focus more on vocabulary and grammar.

The plan is to continue this unit until it blends into a unit on multiculturalism in Germany, or specifically in Berlin. Discussions have already come up on Turkish German culture, and we will be looking further in-depth on that topic.

Thursday after the Veterans' Day assembly, the class was split due to schedule and responsibilities. We did what I call a “passive learning day.” It's a studied method of language learning that entails the students relaxing and letting their thoughts slow down and the classroom being void of any non-German stimulation. Soft and clear German music is played while students take care of the rest. This is not a method we will use often, but one that is beneficial on such days.

## News from German Club:

### Opera, Leavenworth, and Krampus!

German Club went to our first opera together on October 28<sup>th</sup>. We all had a great time hearing German performed by professionals. We intend to see the Magic Flute in May!

Leavenworth field trip is coming up Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>! Permission slips are out and there are less than 20 seats left. We will be spending the full day in the town and have the opportunity to observe much of German culture. (Please note, if weather looks dangerous as we approach this schedule, we will postpone to a spring time event.)

December 5<sup>th</sup> is Krampustag! Who is Krampus? To put it simply, he takes care of all the bad children the day before St. Nikolaus day. If you're more familiar with northern traditions, you may have heard about Knecht Ruprecht instead. German Club is trying to get an order of student-designed sweatshirts completed by this day, but I'm not convinced this will work yet. There will be a German club event that day – we'll talk about Krampus traditions still going on in Austria and then watch last year's release of Krampus.