

Viermal Deutschland

Vokabeln | Vocabulary Lists

It is important to remember that while cultural perspectives are often shared by people living in close proximity, they may differ greatly from person to person based on various factors, including social upbringing, class, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and political creed (!) and are thus not necessarily representative or factually accurate.

Before We Start | A Word About German Regionalism

A. German Cultural Associations

What comes to your mind when you think about Germany and the Germans? Write down your associations freely, no matter whether you believe them to be factually true or not. (You may also want to include what you have heard others say about Germany, such as your parents, friends or teachers, or the media.)

B. Germany: A Monolithic Block?

A lot of times we think of countries and their populace as one monolithic block, with everyone sharing the same cultural experience. This might or might not be true of the associations you wrote down above. But of course, you will find within any country significant regional differences which are informed by shared regional experience, including distinct linguistic developments (dialects), local politics, economies, landscapes and the proximity to specific neighboring regions and countries. Think about a country you know very well, perhaps one where you have grown up or lived for a while and come up with a few examples of cultural differences (linguistic, political, geographical, economic, and so on) between various regions.

C. *Out of Many, One: The German Patchwork Nation*

Germany, compared to other Western European countries (including Great Britain, Italy, France, Spain and the Scandinavian countries) is a relatively young nation. Up to the late nineteenth century it may best be described as a political and cultural mosaic, consisting of a loose patchwork of kingdoms, markships and principalities small and large, each undergoing shifting political alliances and the development of distinct local dialects. Travel between regions was far less common in the past, since it was expensive and fraught with political complications. Language also posed obstacles for interregional communication. Before the introduction of standard high German people from one region may have had a very hard time communicating with people from other regions (a cultural idiosyncrasy that may still hold true today.) For all the above reasons, Germany retains to this day strong regional identities, many of which will be reflected in the chat responses of this program. Look at the map of Germany below. Write down what influence you think the geography and immediate neighboring countries have on the four German regions (North, South, East and West).



Berlin | Vocabulary List

Nomen

Adler, m	eagle
Brücke, f	bridge
Bundestag	German parliament
Darm, m	sausage casing
Dorf, n	village
Erzählung, f	narrative, story
Fleischer, m	butcher
Gebärdensprache, f	sign language
Gefahr, f	danger
Gemeinde, f	community
Gericht, n	food dish
Gerüst, n	scaffolding
Gleis, n	train platform
Grund, m	reason
Gurke, f	cucumber, pickle
Denkmal, n	memorial
Hauptbahnhof, m	central station
Hauptstadt, f	capital city
Hauch, m	smidgeon
Haut, f	skin
Kaiser, m	German emperor
Kirche, f	church
Lärm, m	noise
Leitspruch, m	motto
Löwe, m	lion
Mitbewohnerin, f	flatmate
Mensch, m	human, person
Möglichkeit, f	opportunity, possibility
Prozent, n	percent
Recht, n	legal right
Reederei, f	shipping company
Reichstag, m	German parliament building
Schrebergarten, m	garden plot, parcel
Sehenswürdigkeit, f	landmark, sightseeing attraction
Sorge, f	concern, worry
Spaß, m	fun
Sprichwort, n	proverb

Strand, m	beach
Trennung, f	division, separation
Umgangssprache, f	colloquial language
Unterschied, m	difference
Veranstaltung, f	event
Verkehr, m	traffic
Wald, m	forest, woods
Wappen, n	crest, shield

Verben

ab·brennen	to burn (down)
ab·reißen	to tear down
auf·wachsen	to grow up
aus·drücken	to express
aus·kommen	to get along
bauen	to build, construct
begrüßen	to greet
besuchen	to visit
betrachten	to look at, take in
ein·stürzen	to cave in
fertig·stellen	to finish
promovieren	to pursue a doctorate
schmecken	to taste
trennen	to divide, to separate
verstehen	to understand
versterben	to die, pass away
zerstören	to destroy

Adjektive | Adverbien

abwechslungsreich	diversified, varied
beeindruckend	impressive
bodenständig	down to earth
dreckig	dirty, filthy
ehrlich	honest, honestly
gemeinsam	in common, together
geräuchert	smoked
häßlich	ugly
häufig	often
hauptsächlich	chiefly, mainly
lebendig	alive, lively
sympathisch	likeable

trotzdem
umgänglich
unterwegs
ursprünglich
verkrustet
verschieden
wahrscheinlich
witzig

even though
easy going
on the road
originally
crusty
different
likely, probably
funny

Phrasen

Es ist mir egal.
Es ist viel los.
im Grunde
seit Ewigkeiten
um die Ecke
ein Stückchen

I don't care either way.
Many things are going on.
basically
forever
around the corner
a little bit

Bremen | Vocabulary List

Nomen

Anleger, m	boat dock
Augenblick, m	at the moment, currently
Begeisterung, f	exaltation
Beispiel, n	example
Bild, n	painting, picture
Binnenland, n	inland
Dom, m	cathedral
Ebbe, f	low tide
Eindruck, m	impression
Empfindung, f	personal impression
Esel, m	donkey
Fähre, f	ferry
Fahrrad, n	bicycle
Fenchel, m	fennel
Flut, f	high tide
Gebäude, n	building
Gefälle, n	drop, descent, gap
Gegend, f	surrounding area
Gericht, n	food dish
Gesang, m	song
Geschichte, f	history, narrative, story
Geschmackssache, f	personal taste
Glück, n	fortune, luck
Grünfläche, f	green space
Grünkohl, m	kale
Grund, der	reason
Hafen, m	harbor, port
Hahn, m	rooster
Haufen, m	cluster
Hochdeutsch, n	modern high german, Standard German
Insel, f	island
Kartoffel, f	potato
Kind, n	child
Klimawandel, m	climate change
Kräuter, pl	herbs
Küste, f	seacoast
Landschaft, f	landscape

Magen, m	stomach
Mensch, m	human, person
Möglichkeit, f	opportunity, possibility
Pferdewagen, m	horse carriage
Pinkel, f	grain sausage
Plattdeutsch, n	Low German
Prozent, n	percent
Rathaus, n	city hall
Räuber, m	robber
Regel, f	rule
Regen, m	rain
Rente, f	pension
Richtung, f	direction
Rundfahrt, f	city tour
Sahne, f	heavy cream
Spiegelei, n	fried egg, sunny side up
Strand, m	beach, strand
Straßenbahn, f	streetcar, tram
Tasse, f	cup
Überbleibsel, n	leftovers
Überlegung, f	consideration
Ufer, n	river bank
Umfrage, f	poll, survey
Umzug, m	parade
Vergleich, m	comparison
Viertelstunde, f	a quarter hour
Vorteil, m	advantage
Wahrzeichen, n	landmark, symbol
Watt, n	coastal mudflats
Weilchen, n	a little while
Weltkulturerbe, n	world cultural heritage
Wettbewerb, m	competition

Verben

an·gucken	to view, watch
auf·tauen	to thaw
aus·drücken	to express
aus·fallen	to get cancelled
aus·wandern	to emigrate
empfehlen	to recommend
entdecken	to discover
entstehen	to develop (passive)

entspannen (sich)	to relax
erklären	to explain
gucken	to look at
merken	to notice, realize
passieren	to happen
rein·schneiden	to cut into
treffen	to hit a target, to meet
tröpfeln	to drip
überlisten	to trick
um·rühren	to stir
unternehmen	to undertake, venture
unterschätzen	to underestimate
verhalten (sich)	to behave a certain way
versuchen	to try
wagen	to gamble, risk
zählen	to count
ziehen nach	to move to
zurück·legen	to cover a distance
zu·steigen	to get on a bus, ship, train

Adjektive | Adverbien

anders	different
echt	real, true
ehrlich	honest, honestly
ewig	for a long time, forever
gelassen	laid back
gewinnen	to win
gemein	base, mean
gemütlich	cozy
geregelt	regulated
hässlich	nasty, ugly
irgendwann	at one point in time, whenever
langsam	slow
leider	unfortunately
mittlerweile	since then
nass	wet
nebeneinander	next to each other
nett	nice
notwendig	necessary
oben	above, up
passend	fittingly
ranzig	rancid

selten
spannend
unbeständig
überall
ungefähr
unterwegs
verloren
verteilt
verwandt
wahnsinnig
witzig
zwischen durch

rarely, seldom
exciting
fickle, unsteady
everywhere
approximately
on the road
lost
spread across
related
crazy
funny
in between

Phrasen

Da ist alles vertreten.
Es fehlt mir.
Es fühlt sich an...
Es gefällt mir.
Es kommt darauf an.
Das ist in Ordnung.
Das reicht.

Everything is present.
I find it lacking.
It feels like...
It's to my liking.
It depends.
That's alright.
That is enough.

Köln | Vocabulary List

Nomen

Arbeit, f	work
Arznei, f	medication
Aufführung, f	performance
Auflösung, f	breakup, dissolution
Ausnahmezustand, m	state of exception
Ausruf, m	call, exclamation
Austausch, m	exchange
Berg, m	mountain
Besondere, n	the particular
Blumenstrauß, m	flower bouquet
Brunnen, m	wellhead, spring
Bundesland	German federal state
Burg, f	castle
Duftwasser, n	perfume
Durchmischung, f	mixture
Ecke, f	corner
Eigenständigkeit, f	independence
Empfang, m	reception
Erbsen, pl	green peas
Flagge, f	flag
Fundus, m	collection of costumes
Gefühl, n	feeling
Geschichte, f	history, story
Gesicht, n	face
Gotik, f	Gothic era
Grenze, f	border
Hälfte, f	one half
Hahn, m	rooster
Himmel, m	heaven, sky
im Verborgenen	in hiding, secretly
Kamelle, pl	caramel candy
Knochen, m	bone
König, m	king
Kostüm, n	costume
Krieg, m	war
Landwirtschaft, f	agriculture

Lebensgefühl, n	attitude towards life
Meer, n	ocean, sea
Mensch, m	human, person
Missgeschick, n	mishap
Pflaster, n	here: atmosphere, street vibe (lit: pavement)
Pferd, n	horse
Preußen, n	Prussia
Rang, m	rank, reputation
Rathaus, n	city hall
Reiter, pl	riders
Rezension, f	critical review
Roggenbrötchen, n	rye roll
Römer, pl	Romans
Ruf, m	reputation
Schneider, m	tailor
Schwert, n	sword
Senf, m	mustard
Stadthalter, m	governor
Strecke, f	route, stretch of road
Strömung, f	current
(ein) Ticken	a tidbit
Treppe, f	stairs, staircase
Truhe, f	chest
Überschwemmung, f	flooding
Umbruch	turmoil, upheaving
Urlaub, m	vacation
Veräppelung, f	ridicule
Verein, m	club
Vielfältigkeit, f	diversity
Vorurteil, n	bias, preconceived notion
Wagen, m	float, vehicle, wagon
Wehwehchen, pl	minor illnesses
Weib, n	woman (outdated)
Wirbel	eddies
Wohlstand, m	affluence
Zug, m	parade, (wagon) train
Zugezogene, pl	newcomers
Zwerge, pl	gnomes

Verben

ab-sperren	to block off, to close off
achten auf	to pay attention to
an-fangen	to begin, to start
auf-bauen	to (re)build
auf-lösen	to dissolve
aus-rutschen	to slip
bedeuten	to have a meaning
besichtigen	to visit a landmark
bestätigen	to confirm
dauern	to last
dazugehören	to belong
erheben	to raise to the next level
eröffnen	to ring in, to open
gründen	to establish, to found
gurken	to travel slowly (colloquial)
hereinfallen auf	to fall into a trap
hinterlassen	to leave behind
hochkommen	to bubble up
marschieren	to march
merken	to notice
pendeln	to commute
schmeissen	to throw
schwärmen	to rave, to swoon over
spazieren	to take a leisurely walk
stören	to disturb
stürmen	to storm
(sich) treffen	to meet one other
übernehmen	to take over
um-steigen	to change trains, planes and automobiles
veranstalten	to organize an event
verbinden mit	to associate with
verschwinden	to disappear
zurückgehen auf	to go back to, to originate in

Adjektive | Adverbien

ähnlich	similar
allgemein	generally, in general
ausgeflippt	crazy
ausgeprägt	pronouncedly marked

auswärts	outside of town
bekömmlich	easy on the stomach
bescheuert	daft
besonders	extraordinary, special
breit	wide
bunt	colorful
deswegen	for that reason
eigentlich	originally
ehemalig	former
entscheidend	deciding
gefährlich	dangerous
gewaltig	overpowering, very strong
herb	bitter
irgendwie	somehow
irgendwo	somewhere
komisch	funny, odd, strange
kurz angebunden	curt, short
lecker	tasty, yummy
letztendlich	when all is said and done
nebeneinander	adjacent, next to one another
neugierig	nosy
oberflächlich	shallow, superficial
obergärig	top-fermented
peinlich	embarrassing
platt	flat
romanisch	Roman-style
unbedingt	at all costs
satirisch	satirical
schlimm	bad, terrible
schrill	whacky
stolz	proud
streng	strict, strictly
tatsächlich	actually, in fact
toll	fantastic, great
umgekehrt	in reverse, the other way round
ungefähr	approximately
unterirdisch	subterranean
unterwegs	on the road
verdamm	damn
verpönt	frowned upon, taboo
weltlich	worldly
zerstört	destroyed
ziemlich	rather, quite

zumindest
zusammen
zweischneidig
zwischen durch

at least
together
double-edged
in between

Phrasen

Ich bin daran gewöhnt.

I am used to it.

Ich bin gut drauf.

I am in a good mood.

Ich fühle mich wohl.

I feel comfortable.

Ich werfe einen Blick darauf.

I am taking a look at that.

Ich komme gut zurecht.

I am managing fine.

Es hält sich in Grenzen.

It has its limits.

Nimmst du mich auf die Schippe?

Are you kidding me?

München | Vocabulary List

Nomen

Besiedlung, f	settlement
Braten, m	roast
Brezel, f	pretzel
Brötchen, n	crusty roll
Dach, n	roof
Dom, m	cathedral
Einkaufszentrum, n	shopping mall
Fernsehturm, m	television tower
Fleisch, n	meat
Geburtsstadt, f	place of birth
Geburtstag, m	birthday
Gemütlichkeit, f	comfort, coziness
Gericht, n	dish
Geschichte, f	history, story, tale
Gesellschaft, f	society
Getränk, n	beverage, drink
Grünkohl, m	kale
Grundnahrungsmittel,	basic staple food
Heimat, f	hometown
Heimspiel, n	home game
Herz, n	heart
Jahreszeit, f	season
Jubiläum, n	anniversary
Kartoffeln, pl	potatoes
Käse, m	cheese
Kirche, f	church
Kriminalität, f	crime
Kunden, pl	customers
Kuppeln, pl	cupolas
Landwirtschaft, f	agriculture
Lebensstil, m	lifestyle
Leberkäs, m	bologna loaf
Leute, pl	people
Mauer, f	wall, the Wall
Mietpreise, pl	rental prices

Nachbar, m	neighbor
Olympiade, f	Olympic Games
Ort, m	place
Polizei, f	police
Paradies, n	paradise
Rathaus, n	city hall
Regen, m	rain
Reise, f	journey, trip
Schiesserei, f	shooting
Schloß, n	castle
Schmelztiegel, m	melting pot
Schnee, m	snow
Schokolade, f	chocolate
Spätzle, f	Swabian noodles
Sprache, f	language
Stadion, n	stadium
Stadtteil, m	city district, part of town
Steuern, pl	taxes
Turm, m	steeple, tower
Uhren, pl	clocks, watches
Wahrzeichen, n	emblem, symbol
Zeit, f	time

Verben

sich ändern	to undergo change
arbeiten	to work
ein-kaufen	to shop
erheben	here: to levy (taxes)
fühlen	to feel
glauben	to believe
grenzen an	to border
gucken	to observe, to watch
kennen lernen	to get to know
lieben	to love
mögen	to like
raus-kommen	to get away, to leave
runter-kommen	to wind down
sich streiten	to argue with one another
sich überschätzen	to overestimate one's abilities
um-bauen	to alter, to restructure
um-steigen	to change trains

verstehen
wissen
zu-schütten

to comprehend, to understand
to know for a fact
to fill in a hole

Adjektive | Adverbien

abgehängt
anderswo
aufgeschlossen
bekannt
besoffen
ein bisschen
wahnsinnig
dementsprechend
droben
eigentlich
entspannt
etepetete
früher
gemeinsam
genau so viel
hinterwäldlerisch
in der Nähe
krass
lässig
leicht
lecker
locker
nett
protzig
prunkvoll
reserviert
schickimicki
schnuckelig
schmutzig
selten
sicher
spiessig
schwierig
teuer

left behind
someplace else
open minded
famous, well known
drunk, plastered
a little bit
crazy, mind boggling
thus
here: up north
actually
laid back, relaxed
overrefined, stilted
before, in the past
together
as many as
hillbillyish
closeby
extreme
laid back
easy
tasty
laid back, relaxed
nice, pleasant
ostentatious
luxurious
detached, reserved
ostentatious, trendy
cutsey, cosy
dirty, grimy
seldom
safe
narrow minded, stuck up
difficult
expensive

toll
traumhaft
verrückt
verschieden
vielleicht
wahrscheinlich
wichtig
zuhause

fantastic
like a dream
crazy
different, various
maybe, perhaps
likely, probably
important
at home

Phrasen

Auf jeden Fall!
Genau!
Keine Ahnung.
Was fällt mir ein?

For sure!
Indeed!
No clue.
What comes to mind?