How successfully to navigate the EU Presidency 2018



Sprach-Guide

Nachschlagewerk und Arbeitshilfe für Bundesdienst, öffentliche Verwaltung und Sprachmittlung im Zuge der Vorbereitung und Durchführung des österreichischen EU-Ratsvorsitzes

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Vorwort

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren des öffentlichen Dienstes, geschätzte Leserinnen und Leser!

Das Sprachinstitut des Bundesheeres (SIB) hatte den Auftrag, im Kontext der österreichischen EU-Ratspräsidentschaft ein sprachliches Hilfsmittel für alle öffentlichen Bediensteten zu schaffen. Wir haben dieses Büchlein "Sprach-Guide" genannt, in Anlehnung an unsere unterstützenden Sprachfibeln für jene Soldatinnen und Soldaten, die ihren Dienst im Rahmen von UN-Missionen im Ausland versehen. So möge diese Publikation Ihnen zur Unterstützung dienen, wenn Sie sich auf die EU-18 vorbereiten, und Ihnen vielleicht währenddessen auch die eine oder andere Unannehmlichkeit ersparen, sei es das mühsame Suchen nach Begriffen, sei es die falsche Verwendung von englischen Ausdrücken oder Phrasen.

Der Sprach-Guide ist Teil unseres größeren Projektes, des "Sprachressourcen-Portals", welches das SIB, in Kooperation mit dem Zentrum für Translationswissenschaft (ZTW) der Universität Wien, erarbeitet hat. So hoffen wir, dass wir Ihnen Ihre Arbeit erleichtern und im Sprachbereich einen wertvollen Beitrag zur EU-18 leisten konnten.

Der Leiter des Sprachinstituts

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Preface

Welcome to the Austrian EU-Presidency 2018!

We (i.e. the Austrian Armed Forces Language Institute) were asked to compile an English aid for public administration to support them during the time of preparing for the EU-18 and the actual presidency itself. Therefore, we tried to come up with what we think might come in handy to know about communicating in English. We also asked the Diplomatic Academy (DiplAk) and the Federal Academy of Public Administration (VAB) for some input, and in the end it was my task to put flesh to the bone and to pour it all into a small booklet. The outcome is indeed a motley collection, from small talk to punctuation rules, from chairing meetings to ordering food. My own Anglo-Austrian background has taught me how to navigate different potential cultural pitfalls, which is why I have included a variety of "culture tips", and I have tried to cater for the needs of learners of all levels. In my research, I drew upon a variety of sources (see "references") but, first and foremost, on many years of experience as a language teacher. So, if you think that "actual" means "aktuell", you might want to consult the list of "False Friends" at the end!

In a nutshell, this booklet is intended to inspire and support, inform and assist, maybe even help you out of some sticky situations if Murphy's Law strikes. Indeed, it might prove quite useful in other contexts as well, and beyond the time of the EU Presidency.

I wish you all the best during preparations for and the EU-18 itself!

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Introducing yourself and others

Introducing yourself

	Phrases	Response
Formal	Hello, my name is	How do you do? I am
	Jerry Statler. How do	Conrad Waldorf.
	you do?	
Neutral/professional	Hello, I am Jerry	And you. I'm Conrad
	Statler. Good to meet	Waldorf.
	you.	
Informal	Hi, I'm Jerry, how are	I'm Conrad, nice to
	you?	meet you.

Culture tip: introductions

Neither the question "How do you do?" (antiquated or extremely formal) nor, normally, the question "How are you?" is directly answered at first-time meetings.

Introducing others

	Phrases	Response
Formal	Mr Statler, may I	Please do. Good
	introduce Mr Waldorf	evening, Mr Waldorf.
	to you? / Please allow	
	me to introduce Mr	
	Waldorf.	
Neutral/professional	Hello, Mr Statler.	No, I haven't
	Have you met Conrad	actually. Nice to meet
	Waldorf?	you.
Informal	Hi, have you two	Hi Jerry, nice to meet
	met? This is Jerry.	you. I'm Conrad.

Culture tip: titles

Native speakers of English have little time for titles. For instance, the title "Doctor" is normally just given to a GP (not to specialists or dentists) as well as to scientists in certain contexts, but not to lawyers, for instance. For men, we use "Mr", for women "Ms" [Miz]. Never introduce yourself with a title!

Dealing with visitors

Do's and don'ts for receiving visitors

DO	DON'T
smile and turn towards the visitor	make your visitor feel they are
	interrupting you
greet the visitor warmly and offer	sound bored and look uninterested
assistance	
check the name of the visitor and	push a pen at the visitor or point to
the person being visited	the keyboard in silence
ask the visitor politely to sign in	worry if you are not confident with
while you check if someone is	English spelling: politely ask the
available	visitor to write their name so you
	can spell it correctly
invite the visitor to take a seat	forget to say how long the visitor
	can expect to wait
smile at the visitor as they leave	ignore the visitor after you think
the reception area	your job is done
If the visitor has to wait longer	In such a case, never say "Please
than expected, say, "Please bear	be patient!" as it implies that the
with us a little longer!"	visitor is NOT being patient!

Clothing

9	
Attire	can be smart, stylish, trendy, unfashionable
Business professional (formal)	suit and tie, shirt in conservative colours, dress shoes, dark socks (men); suited skirt or trousers, blouse, blazer, moderate heels (women);
Business casual	jeans and blazer, tie often not necessary
(less formal)	(men); dress, cardigan etc. allowed for women

Meeting and greeting

Greetings

Hello / Good morning /	Good afternoon
------------------------	----------------

Pleased / Nice to meet you, I'm ...

Welcome to ...

Good / Nice to see you again.

Let me help you with your case / coat.

Please follow me. We're on the ... floor.

Culture tip: greetings

The greetings "good morning" and "hello" are neutral, whereas "good afternoon" and "good evening" are considered rather formal.

Greeting someone you know

	Phrases	Response
Formal	Hello, Mr Statler,	You, too. How have
	good to see you	you been?
	again.	
	How are you?	Very well, thank you.
		And you?
Neutral/professional	Hello, Jerry / Mr	Fine, thanks, and
	Statler. How are	yourself?
	you?	
Informal	Hi, Jerry! How're	I'm good, how about
	you doing?	yourself?

Culture tip: first names

In Anglo-American contexts, people tend to be on first-name terms very quickly. This does not mean, however, that they are close friends!

Culture tip: education

When talking your qualifications, don't confuse education (=what you get at school/university) and training (more practical, e.g. an apprenticeship)! Of course, sometimes the two overlap as there are various types of vocational school (Berufsschule) and University of Applied Science (Fachhochschule) that offer very practical courses.

Making small talk and socialising

Culture tip: keeping the conversation flowing

Asking questions is a good way to get a visitor to open up and start talking. However, asking too many questions might make you come across as a bit pushy. You should concentrate on questions that keep the conversation flowing. There should be a natural balance between questions and statements so don't forget to share some information about yourself!

Culture tip: "short answers"

Just answering with "yes" or "no" is considered impolite in English. The minimum is the so-called short answer, which is, e.g., "Yes, I did." or "No, he isn't." Use the same auxiliary (except sometimes in case of TO BE) as for questions.

Travel questions

Did you have a good flight / trip?

How was your flight / trip?

Did you have any problems finding us?

Is this your first time in Vienna / Austria / ...?

Where are you staying?

Is everything OK with your hotel / accommodation?

Introducing people / processes

This is ...

This part of the process is called ...

Location identifiers

Over here/there is ...

This is where ...

Highlighting

As you can see, ...

If you look at ...

Explaining sequences

First ... second ... then ... after that ... and finally ...

Signposting

OK, let's move to
I'm now going to show you
And I'm now going to talk a little about
OK, that's everything about

Instructions

Please follow me.	
Please mind your head.	

Suggestions

Asking for suggestions	What shall we do tonight?
	Where shall we go this evening?
Making suggestions	How about going to the cinema?
	Why don't we try that new pub?
Replies:	
positive	Yeah, great / fine / that's a good idea / sounds
	great.
neutral	Yes, if you like.
	I don't mind.
	I'm easy.
negative	I think I'd rather go back to my hotel.
	Raincheck? (= another time perhaps?)

Expressions for special occasions

Excuse me	to get someone's attention (e.g. "Excuse me.
	Is this seat free?") or to get past them
Sorry	to apologise
	e.g. when you stand in someone's way
Cheers	Prost; can also mean "goodbye" and "thanks"
Thank you	the correct reply is, "you're welcome" or
	"don't mention it" (not "please"!)
Bless you	when someone sneezes (the reply is "thank
(US: Gesundheit)	you")

Food and drink

Can I offer you anything to drink? Coffee, tea, water?

What would you like? We've got orange juice, sparkling water and champagne.

Can I top up your drink?

What are you having?

Please help yourselves to the buffet.

You must be hungry after your long trip. Shall we go and get a bite to eat before the presentation?

We've booked a table at ... for eight o'clock. We'll finish up at about six, so that you'll have plenty of time to freshen up at your hotel beforehand.

I'll pick you up at 7.30 for dinner, ok?

Typical small-talk topics

The weather	It's very muggy today, isn't it?
	What's the weather like in your country?
Health	How have you been recently?
	How are you keeping?
Holidays	Have you got any holiday (US: vacation)
	plans?
	Where did you spend your holiday this year?
Family	Have you got family?
	How're your family doing?
Hobbies	Do you do any sports?
	I'm into chess.
Home country	Whereabouts do you come from in?
	How often do you get back to?
Work	What do you do?
	What exactly does your job entail?
Responsibilities	I report to my superior.
	We are in charge of accounts.
	We co-operate with other ministries.
	We are responsible for providing

Culture tip: taboos

Some topics are off limits in some countries or cultures, such as death, illnesses or someone's income – stick to topics that are "safe"!

Common questions and responses

Personal questions

Questions	Possible answers
Where are you from? or	Italy.
Where do you come from?	I'm Austrian/English
Where do you live?	In Lower Austria.
What do you do? (= job)	I'm a translator.
What are you doing at the moment?	I'm working on a big project.
Are you married?	No, I'm single.
How old are you?	I'm 29.
What's your address/mobile number?	It's

Everyday questions

Questions	Possible answers
How are you? or	Fine, thanks.
How's it going?	I'm good, and yourself?
What's the matter?	Nothing. Why?
What are you doing this evening?	Nothing special/much. Why?
Have you got the time?	Yes, it's five past three.
How much is that necklace?	It's €450.
What sort / kind of music do you	I like opera.
like?	
Are you enjoying your stay in	Yes, it's great.
Vienna?	
Did you have a good day today?	Excellent, and you?

Culture tip: HOW? and WHAT...LIKE?

Please note the difference between these two questions:

How was the party? (= tell me your opinion of it)

What (NOT how!) was the party like? (= describe it to me)

Time questions

English	German
How long have you been in Vienna?	Wie lange sind Sie schon on Wien?
How long are you staying? or How long are you here for?	Wie lange bleiben Sie? Für wie lange sind Sie hier?
How much longer are you staying?	Wie lange sind Sie noch hier?
Is this the first time you've been to Vienna?	Sind Sie zum ersten Mal in Wien?
When did you arrive?	Wann sind Sie angekommen?

Culture tip: tenses

Careful of tense usage! We say how long we have been staying or how often we've been TO a certain place (e.g. I've been to Vienna before); as soon as we talk about a specific situation in the past, we use the past tense (e.g. I first came two years ago and really enjoyed my stay). If you use the wrong tense, you could confuse others!

Short responses

Questions	Short responses
Are you going out tonight?	I think / don't think so.
Will your boss be there?	I hope so / hope not.
Are you working tomorrow?	I'm afraid so.
Can you come to the reception?	I'm afraid not.
Shall we take a taxi?	If you like.
Would you like to walk there?	I don't mind.

Enthusiastic responses

Questions	Enthusiastic responses
She's finally passed the test.	Really? That's great!
	Oh, that's brilliant/fantastic!
We're going camping in Greece.	That sounds wonderful.
	How exciting!

Disappointed responses

Questions	Disappointed responses
I can't have lunch with you today.	Oh, what a pity / shame.
	Oh, that's a pity / shame!
It's raining again.	Oh, what a nuisance/pain.
	What a drag!

Culture tip: remember to respond!

When you are talking to someone, it is important to show them you are listening. You can do so by using sounds like "mmm" and "uh huh", or words such as "OK", "right", "sure", or "I see". Such feedback is slightly more frequent among English than among German speakers.

Culture tip: saying "auch nicht"

Don't use TOO in negative statements when agreeing with someone. E.g. don't say, "I don't like veal, too" but "I don't like veal EITHER".

Saying goodbye

Positive comments

It was nice meeting you. / Nice to have met you.
It was good to see you again.
It was a very useful (first) meeting.
It's been great working with you.
Thanks for everything.

Reference to future

I'll send you an email / a proposal when I get back.
See you again next
Hope to see you soon.
I look forward to seeing you next month.

Comment on journey

(Have a) Safe journey.	
Have a good trip home / back.	

Final goodbye

Goodbye.

Take care!

Culture tip: "Foot-in-Mouth Disease"

In a foreign language, it is very easy to "put one's foot in one's mouth" (= ins Fettnäpfchen treten). One such pitfall would be the use of expletives (such as "Sh..." or "F..."), which is common in German but should be avoided at all cost in English – so no four-letter words please! Moreover, the German word "Rückseite" is translated with the English "back". You should only use "backside" if you wish to refer to the part of someone's anatomy they usually sit on – because this is the ONLY meaning of the word! The word "bottom", on the other hand, is also used in other contexts, e.g. "the bottom of the hill" or "the bottom of the sea."

Murphy's Law

Culture tip: a spiteful universe?

The classic wording of Murphy's Law is, "Anything that <u>can</u> go wrong <u>will</u> go wrong", although there are of course many variations.

Problems with machines or devices

The switch is not working (properly).

There is something wrong with the projector (NOT beamer!).

The copy machine is out of order.

Something is lost

I've lost my room key / passport / wallet. Do you happen to know ...?
I'm afraid I can't find my files anymore. Is there any way I could ...?

I seem to have lost my way. Could you tell me how to find ...?

Culture tip: forget it

We can say, "I've forgotten my documents" but as soon as we add where, we have to use the verb LEAVE, e.g." I've left my jacket in the conference room."

Other problems

There seems to be no seat available. Would you mind standing for a bit?

I've missed the train from the airport.

 $Unfortunately, public \ transport \ has \ completely \ broken \ down.$

I'm afraid I'm stuck in a traffic jam.

I'm sorry, but I'm feeling a bit under the weather today. Can we reschedule our meeting?

At the restaurant

Culture tip: Das Buffet ist eröffnet

The German "Das Buffet ist eröffnet" does not exist in English. What you could say, though, is, "There are some refreshments waiting for you outside / next door / over there. Please help yourselves!" or something similar.

Describing the menu

The dish of the day / daily special = what the restaurant is featuring set meal = the starter, main course and dessert are chosen by the restaurant (don't say "menu"!)

a la carte = where you choose what you want to eat from the menu

Asking for a description of the food

What is 'Wiener Schnitzel' exactly?

Is this dish vegetarian?

What's in spaghetti carbonara?

Can you tell me how this dish is prepared?

Describing food

It's a meat dish, garnished with parsley.

It's topped with cheese.

It's served with a side salad.

Sauces can be **cheesy** (made with cheese), **savoury** (not sweet), **creamy** (smooth), **spicy** (made with chilli peppers) or **delicate** (a subtle, rather than strong taste).

Desserts can be **rich** (very filling with a strong taste, like chocolate gateau), **light** (not heavy in taste or texture, like a sorbet), **tangy** (with a sharp taste of lemon or orange, like a lemon pie), or **fruity** (made with fruit, like trifle).

Culture tip: Mahlzeit

There is no phrase like the German "Mahlzeit" that people say when they start eating. If you like, though, you could say, "Enjoy your meal!" or use the French "Bon appétit!"

Ordering in a restaurant - things waiters say

Are you ready to order yet?
Have you decided what you are having?
Would you like anything to drink with your meal?
Can I recommend the chef's special?

Ordering in a restaurant - things customers say

We'd like a little longer, please.	
Could you give us a couple more minutes?	
We really can't decide. Can you advise us?	
I'll have/take the schnitzel, please.	
I'd like the vegetarian dish of the day, please.	

Culture tip: "It's on me!"

The German expression "ich lade dich ein" is not the same as the English "I'll invite you" (this means "invite somebody to a place or event"). Instead, you should say, "This one is on me!" or "I'll get this" or "my treat". If you want to pay for your own meal only, you say, "Let's split the bill, ok?"

Types of food

meat (or "red meat")	= lamb, pork or beef	
poultry (or "white	chicken, turkey, goose, duck	
meat")		
game ("wild" meat)	rabbit, hare, partridge, pheasant	
fish	salt water fish / sea fish or fresh water fish	
seafood	prawns, shrimps, lobster, scallops, mussels,	
	crab	
vegetables	leafy vegetables (such as broccoli or spinach),	
	root vegetables (such as carrots and onions)	
	etc.	
fruit	soft fruit (such as plums and peaches); berry	
	fruit (such as strawberries or raspberries) etc.	

How food is cooked

boiled	cooked in boiling water	
steamed	cooked over a saucepan of boiling water	
fried / sautéed	cooked in oil in a frying pan	
stir-fried	fried fast in hot oil	
pan-fried	fried in a frying pan	
roasted	cooked in oil in the oven	
grilled	cooked under a grill or on a ridged pan	
baked	cooked in the oven	
stewed	cooked for a long time on a low heat	

Dishes

starter / hors	the first thing you eat as part of a more formal	
d'oeuvre / appetiser	meal	
main course	often a meat, fish or vegetarian dish	
dessert / pudding	a sweet course at the end of the meal (you	
	might also see cheese or fruit offered)	

Diets

watch what you eat	be careful about what you eat, and the	
	quantities you eat	
watch your figure	refuse certain food because you want to stay	
	slim	
cut out certain foods	stop eating bread or pasta, for example	
altogether		
cut down on	reduce the amount of (e.g. sugary foods)	
vegetarian	eating no meat or fish	
vegan	avoiding all animal foods	
flexitarian	plant-based diet with occasional consumption	
	of meat or fish	
gluten-free	avoiding gluten, a protein found in wheat and	
	similar grains	
wholefood	plant-base diet of natural, unprocessed and	
	wholemeal foods	

Other expressions

put on / gain weight	become heavier
lose / shed weight	become lighter
have a sweet tooth	like eating sweet or sugary things like cakes, sweets or chocolate
eat sensibly	eat moderate quantities of food, and not over- indulging in unhealthy food

Cutlery and crockery (Besteck und Geschirr)

Gabel	fork
Messer	knife
Löffel	spoon
Kaffeelöffel	teaspoon
Kuchengabel	dessert fork
Teller	plate
Suppenteller	soup bowl
Schüssel	bowl
Kuchenteller	dessert plate

Preparation styles (Zubereitungsarten)

Braten, Röst-, Brat-	roast
angebraten (kurz)	sautéed
gebacken (im Backrohr)	baked
gebraten	fried
gedünstet	steamed
gegrillt	grilled
gekocht	boiled
geräuchert	smoked
püriert, -Püree	mashed
faschiert	minced
paniert	breaded
aus biologischem Anbau ("bio")	organic
Freilandeier	free-range eggs
hartes Ei	hard-boiled egg

weiches Ei	soft-boiled / runny egg
Spiegelei	fried egg
Rührei, "Eierspeis"	scrambled eggs

Meats (Fleischsorten)

Ente	duck
Geflügel	poultry
Huhn	chicken
Kaninchen	rabbit
Lammfleisch	lamb
Pute	turkey
Reh(fleisch)	venison
Rindfleisch	beef
Schinken	ham
Schweinefleisch	pork
Speck	bacon
Wild(bret)	game
Wildschwein	wild boar

Cuts (Zuschnitte / Fleischstücke)

Hüfte	rump
Keule	leg
Kotelett	chop
Schulter	shoulder

Fish (Fische)

Brasse	bream
Saibling	char
Dorsch (Kabeljau)	cod
Heilbutt	halibut
Lachs	salmon ("l" is not pronounced!)
Seebarsch	seabass
Forelle	trout
Zander	zander

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Vegetables (Gemüsesorten)

Bohnen	beans
Erbsen	peas
grüner Salat	lettuce
Karfiol	cauliflower
Kohlsprossen	Brussels sprouts
Paprika (grüner)	pepper (green)

Austrian national dishes explained (Österreichische Nationalgerichte)

pikant	savoury
Wiener Schnitzel vom Kalb mit	breaded veal cutlets with
Erdäpfelsalat	Viennese-style potato salad
Schweinsbraten mit Knödel und	roast pork with dumplings and
Krautsalat	cabbage salad
Tafelspitz mit Braterdäpfel und	prime boiled beef fillet with fried
Apfelkren	potatoes and horseradish sauce
süß	sweet
Palatschinken mit Marmelade	pancakes with jam
Kaiserschmarrn mit	"Emperor's Mess"; shredded,
Zwetschkenröster	sweet pancake served with plum
	sauce
Marillenknödel mit Bröseln	apricot dumplings with buttered
	breadcrumbs
Sachertorte mit Schlag	classic chocolate cake served with
	whipped cream

Health and First Aid

What a person who is sick or injured might say:

I've got a cold / temperature / sore throat / stomach ache / the flu.	
I'm allergic to (type of food, e.g. nuts)	
I don't feel well .	
I have pain in my leg / arm / chest	
My leg / arm / chest is hurting.	
I have twisted / sprained my ankle.	
Do you know first aid?	
I need a doctor / I need to go to hospital.	

What you then say:

Are you ok?
Let me help you .
I'm trained in first aid.
Where does it hurt ?
You should take something for it.
You should go and see a doctor.
You should go back to your hotel for a rest.
Shall I call an ambulance?
Where's the first aid kit ?

Vocabulary for medical emergencies

Allgemeinmediziner	doctor, GP
(Hausarzt, Hausärztin)	(General Practitioner)
Ambulanz	out-patient clinic
Apotheke	pharmacy
Bauchschmerzen	abdominal pain, bellyache
bluten	to bleed
Blutung	bleeding, haemorrhage
Brille	glasses
Erste Hilfe	First Aid
Fieber haben	to have a temperature

Grippe	ʻflu
Halsweh	a sore throat
heiser	hoarse
Husten	cough
Kopfschmerzen	headache
Magenschmerzen	stomach ache
Medikamente verabreichen	to administer medicine
Notfall	emergency
Notfallambulanz	casualty department
Rettung	ambulance
Schmerzen	pain
Schnupfen	cold
Spezialist	specialist, consultant
Tablette (einnehmen)	(to take a) pill
Unfall	accident
verkühlt sein	to have a cold
verletzt	injured
Verletzung	injury
Wunde	wound
Zahnarzt, Zahnärztin	dentist
Zahnschmerzen	toothache

Family and relations

Verwandte (relatives = related by blood or marriage)

Urgroßeltern (-enkel)	great-grandparents (-child(ren))
Großeltern (-mutter, -vater)	grandparents (-mother, -father)
Enkel (-tochter,-sohn)	grandchild(ren) (-daughter, - son)
Geschwister (Tochter, Bruder)	sibling (sister, brother)
Einzelkind	(an) only child
Stiefmutter (-vater,-tochter, sohn)	stepmother, (-father, -daughter, -son)
Tante, Onkel	aunt, uncle
Nichte, Neffe	niece, nephew
Cousin, Cousine	cousin (boy / girl cousin)
Pflegeeltern (-mutter, -vater,	foster parents, (-mother, -father, -
-kind(er), -tochter, -sohn)	child(ren), -daughter,- son)
Schwiegereltern	in-laws = parents-in-law
Schwiegermutter, -vater, -tochter,	mother-, father-, daughter-, son-
-sohn	in-law
Schwager, Schwägerin	brother-in-law / sister-in-law

Ehe-(Familien-)stand (marital status)

Partner, Partnerin (auch	partner
gleichgeschlechtlich)	
Verlobte, Verlobter	fiancée (female), fiancé (male)
Ehefrau, Ehemann	wife, husband
Exfrau, Exmann	ex-wife, ex-husband
verlobt sein (sich verloben)	to get / be engaged
verheiratet sein (sich)	to get / be married
geschieden sein (sich)	to get / be divorced
zusammenleben	to cohabit
ledig, verheiratet, geschieden, in einer Partnerschaft leben	single, married, divorced, living in a partnership
Lebensgemeinschaft	long-term relationship
eingetragene Partnerschaft	registered partnership
"Patchworkfamilie"	blended family

gleichgeschlechtliches Paar	same-sex couple
Alleinerzieherfamilie	single-parent family
Alleinerziehende(r) Mutter, Vater	single mother / father
nach jemandem (verwandt)	to take after someone (in looks or
geraten (Aussehen, Charakter)	character)
Hochzeitstag	wedding anniversary

Culture tips: wedding and marriage; pregnancy

Don't confuse marriage (Ehe) and wedding (Hochzeit)!

If a woman is pregnant, don't say, "She's getting a baby" but "She's having / expecting a baby"!

Describing a person

Height and build

She's tall / short / of medium height and build / muscular / slim / petite ...

(Don't say "big" as this would mean "fat"!)

Hair

colour	He's got dark brown / black / fair hair. She's a brunette / redhead / blonde.
length, style	shoulder-length, short, curly, wavy, cropped, straight She's wearing her hair loose / in a chignon / in a plait.
beard	covers chin and cheeks
moustache	covers the upper lip

Ages and stages

age	stage
0-1	a baby
1-2	a toddler
2-12	a child (childhood)
13-17	a teenager (14 = early teens)
	an adolescent (adolescence)
18 +	an adult / grown-up
20-29	in their (early / mid- / late) twenties
30-39 (etc.)	in their (early / mid- / late) thirties
40 +	a middle-aged person
60 or 65	a retiree (retirement age)
75 +	old age (an elderly person)

Describing character

positive	negative
warm and friendly	cold and unfriendly
kind	unkind
easy-going	tense

sensitive	insensitive, not caring about people's feeling
punctual	usually late
reliable	unreliable
clever/bright	dim
flexible	inflexible; stuck in his/her ways
ambitious	not ambitious
lots of common sense	no common sense (an idiot)

Sexual orientation (Sexuelle Orientierung)

hetero(-sexuell)	straight (heterosexual)
homosexuell	homosexual
(schwul/lesbisch)	(gay/lesbian)

Telephoning

You make a call

Call recipient	YOU
Hello, [organisation], this is	Hello, this is James Bond, could I
[name] speaking, how can I help	talk to Mr / Ms / Col?
you?	Hello, this is [your name], can I
	speak to?

Culture tips: first contact

NOT "my name is" but always "this is"

NEVER "Bond James" but always "James Bond"

CAREFUL of the pronunciation of Ms [Miz]!

Often, people don't say their names but just "Hello?", especially on their mobile phones.

You get a call

Caller	YOU
Hello, can I speak to [your name]?	Speaking.
to Mr/Ms/Major XY?	Yes, a moment please.
	(Certainly,) I'll put you through.
	I'll connect you.
If the line is engaged:	Sorry, the line is busy / engaged.
	Would you like to hold?
	Sorry, he / she is speaking on
Can I hold?	another line. Could you call back
	later, please?
	His / her extension (number) is
	00112233.
	Yes, one moment please / Yes,
	certainly.
If someone's not here:	Sorry, Mr X is not available now.
	Sorry, Ms Y is not in the office
	today / this week.
	She will be back in the afternoon /
	next Monday / around 3 o'clock.

	Can I connect you to his deputy?
	Can I connect you to somebody
	else?
Can I leave a message, please?	Certainly, what may I tell her?
	Please try again later / tomorrow.
	Can she call you back?
Can she call me back, please? or:	Certainly, could I have your
Could you ask her to return my	number please?
call?	What is your number?

Culture tips: spelling numbers and letters

- Ø Say digits singly, except: double (55... double five), triple (555... triple five); 0... zero / oh
- Ø Use the international (NATO) spelling alphabet!
- Ø Saying email addresses on the phone:

@ ... is pronounced 'at'

/ ... is "forward slash"

- ... is called a "hyphen" (NOT a "minus"!)

... is an "underscore"

Problems:

Can't hear / understand:	Sorry? / Pardon? (NOT "please"!)
	(Can you) Say that again, please?
	Sorry, this is a bad line.
	The reception is bad / I can't hear
	you very well. Are you still there?
	Sorry, I didn't get that. Could you
	say it again, please?

Culture tip: careful!

Don't say, "I don't understand you", it's rude!

Correcting the other person

Actually, it's 19 (nineTEEN), not 90 (NINEty) (careful of word stress!) I'm sorry, but that's not (quite) right (then say what IS right!)

More telephone tips:

- Try to speak clearly and don't be afraid to speak more slowly than normal.
- Ø Think about what you want to say before calling.
- Ø Don't be afraid to ask your caller to repeat themselves if you don't understand.
- Ø If the worst comes to the worst Deutsch reden! That will stop the most talkative native speaker.

Telephoning vocabulary

(den Hörer) abheben	answer (the phone)
am Apparat	speaking
Anrufbeantworter	answerphone
auflegen	hang up
besetzt	engaged (busy)
Besetztzeichen	engaged tone (busy signal)
Buchstabe	letter
buchstabieren	spell
dienstl. Nummer	work number
Durchwahl	direct line
erreichbar (sein)	(to be) available
jdn. erreichen	to reach sb
Freizeichen	dialling tone
falsch verbunden sein	have (dialled) the wrong number
Handy	mobile / cell (phone) (NOT
	handy!)
Hörer	receiver
Klappe (Nebenstelle)	extension (number)
Landeskennzahl	country code
Mobilbox	voice mail
Ortskennzahl	dialling/area code
Privatnummer	home number
Schnurlostelefon	cordless phone
sich etwas aufschreiben	make a note of sth
sich verwählen	dial a wrong number

Telefonbuch	directory
Telefonnummer	phone number
verbinden	connect, put sb through
Vermittlung	operator
wählen	dial
Zentrale	switchboard

NATO Phonetic Alphabet

Letter	phonetic letter	Letter	phonetic letter
A	Alpha	N	November
В	Bravo	0	Oscar
С	Charlie	P	Papa
D	Delta	Q	Quebec
Е	Echo	R	Romeo
F	Foxtrot	S	Sierra
G	Golf	T	Tango
Н	Hotel	U	Uniform
I	India	V	Victor
J	Juliet	W	Whiskey
K	Kilo	X	X-ray
L	Lima	Y	Yankee
M	Mike	Z	Zulu

Culture tip: different preposition

To spell e.g. a name, you should say "A <u>AS IN</u> Alpha" or A <u>FOR</u> Alpha" (not "A like Alpha" as you would in German!)

E-mailing

Greeting and closing

Context	Greeting	Closing
Formal	Dear Sir /	Yours faithfully (UK),
You don't know the recipient's name:	Madam / job title	Sincerely yours (US)
You know the recipient's name:	Dear Mr / Ms / Dr XY (UK: no full stops after titles!)	Yours sincerely
Neutral / professional	Dear James Bond	(Best) Regards
Informal	Dear James	Best wishes
You know someone well	Hi James	Take care

Functions

Context	Formal	Informal
Opening	With reference to your	Thank you for
	e-mail of 12 January,	Regarding,
Reason for	We are writing to	Just a short email to
writing	request / confirm /	request / confirm / inform
	inform you / ask if /	you / ask if / clarify
	clarify	
Good news	We are delighted to	I'm happy to
	confirm that	
Bad news	We regret to inform you	I'm sorry, but
	that	
Requesting	We would appreciate it	Could you please?
	if you could	
Offering	If you require more	Would you like me to?
help	information, we would	Shall I?
	be happy to	
Saying	We must apologise for	I'm really sorry for / about
sorry	(not) / for any	
	inconvenience caused.	
	We deeply regret	

Attaching files	We are attaching Please find attached	I'm attaching I've attached
Ending	Please do not hesitate to contact us again if you require further assistance.	Please let me know if you need more help. / Thanks for your help.
Positive final comment	We look forward to meeting / seeing / hearing from you.	Looking forward to meeting / seeing / hearing from you!

Sample e-mails (semi-formal style)

Organising a meeting		
I am writing to arrange our next meeting to discuss \dots I would propose $1-4$		
p.m. on 15 January	p.m. on 15 January in/at (venue). Please let me know if these times are	
convenient.		
Confirming a	Thank you for the invitation to the meeting. I can	
meeting	confirm that 15 January is convenient for me. Could	
	you please book a room for me at the Hilton? I look	
	forward to seeing you.	
Informing	As I shall have to go to Brussels on Monday next week,	
about	I'm afraid I won't be able to make our meeting on	
changes/delays	Tuesday afternoon. Would it be all right with you if we	
	moved the meeting back one day to Wednesday	
	afternoon, 16 January? Please let me know whether this	
	will be convenient for you.	
Requesting	I am writing to request a copy of your latest issue of	
information	Please could you also send me some information on	
Reminding	Just a quick note to inquire about the documents I asked	
	you for on Monday – have you been able to find them?	
	I'd appreciate it if I could have them by Friday at the	
	latest, as I need them to prepare for my presentation.	
Announcing	Thank you for your e-mail.	
absence (out-of-	I am currently out of the office and will return on 20	
office reply)	January. If you need assistance during this time, please	
1 0/	contact my deputy, Sandra Huber, at	
	shuber@nixda.gv.at or phone her on extension 123.	

Punctuation marks and rules

	full stop	at the end of a sentence / abbreviation
	or dot	in email or Internet addresses
	or point	· in numbers (before the decimal)
,	comma	· no comma before that (e.g. I think that's true.)
		no comma in restrictive relative clauses (e.g. The
		statue that you see over there is of Maria Theresa.)
		 used after initial adverbs / adverbials (e.g.
		However, you may need to book in advance.)
		· in lists before "and": a, b, and c ("Oxford Comma")
		· in numbers to separate the thousands (e.g.
		2,365,812)
		· in compound sentences (two+ main clauses) (e.g.
		This is the conference hall, and over there's the
		restaurant.)
		to introduce direct speech (e.g. He said, "I don't
		agree at all.")
-	hyphen	in compound words, especially adjectives
		e.g. a three-year-old boy, a small-talk topic
:	colon	before a longer list or statement; NOT to introduce
		direct speech!
;	semicolon	to link two clauses without an additional linking word
		e.g. There are many advantages to this process; it has
		a lot of disadvantages, too, though.
•	apostrophe	· for short forms e.g. don't, I'll
		· possessive case ("Saxon Genitive") e.g. Peter's,
		men's, ladies'
"…"	quotes	For direct speech and quotations. Top of the line!
()	brackets	to add information, e.g. a citation
!?		exclamation mark, question mark
_	dash	used to insert another thought into a sentence

Note:

English punctuation rules are quite different from those in German, especially the use of the comma – careful!

Numbers and figures

1,2,39	digits (Ziffern); also: figures (e.g. figure eight)
1, 2, 3, ad infinitum	numbers (ganze Zahlen); in a row
12.82, 5%, 7 miles, €34,	figures (representing something)
12.82 (point not comma in	twelve POINT eight two (so two
English!)	decimals)

Culture tip: point versus comma

In German, we write figures like this: 1.234.567,89 and use points to separate thousands. In English, it is exactly the other way round: 1,234,567.89

Here, the commas serve to separate the thousands.

	1
%	per cent (stress on "cent"); percentage;
0	zero (US), oh (UK), nought (science,
	maths), nil (sports)
"the 1 ^{st"}	In English, the full stop does not turn a
(NOT "the 1.")	cardinal into an ordinal number!
million (careful: 3 million –	Million
not 3 millions!)	
billion	Milliarde
trillion	Billion
Fractions	Brüche
half (no article!)	die Hälfte
a third	ein Drittel
a quarter / three quarters	ein Viertel / drei Viertel
a fifth, a sixth,	ein Fünftel, ein Sechstel,
doing sums	Rechnen

Time and date

Culture tip: asking the time of day

The correct question for the time of day is, "Have you got the time?" or "Do you happen to know the time?" (not "How late is it?")

How to write and say the time:

in the morning (until	There is no separate word for
lunchtime) OR	"Vormittag"!
a.m. short for "ante meridiem",	It's (a) quarter past ten a.m. / in the
i.e. "before noon"	morning.
at noon	It's 12 o'clock / lunchtime.
in the afternoon OR	It's (a) quarter to three p.m. / in the
p.m. short for "post meridiem",	afternoon.
i.e. "after noon"	
in the evening / (late) at night	It's half past eight p.m. / in the
	evening.

Culture tip: using the right preposition and time expression

For the time of day, we use "at" (e.g. The meeting starts AT ten). We use the numbers 1 to 12 for saying the time. The numbers 13 to 24 are normally just used for e.g. train departure times, and in the military 2400h format.

Culture tip: confusing!

If the British say, "Let's meet at half six", they mean half PAST, so 6.30!

How to write and say the date:

British English

e.g. 4 June 2018

No full stop after the number! We tend not to write 4th anymore!

We say: "(on) the fourth of June" or "(on) June the fourth"

American English

e.g. June 4, 2018

We say: "(on) June fourth"

Military use

Winitary usc	
Date-Time-Group - DTG	DDHHMM(Z)MONYY
e.g. 040930Bjun18	DDdate of the month
	HHMMtime, 24-hr format
	A/B/Zmilitary time zone
	MONmonth (first 3 letters,
	capitalised in the US but not by AAF)
	YYlast two digits of the year

Appointments

Asking for an appointment

Formal	I would like to arrange an appointment to discuss
	Please would you indicate a suitable time and place to
	meet?
Neutral	Would it be possible for us to meet on (date) at my office
	to discuss?
Informal	Can we meet (up) to talk about?

Suggesting a time

Neutral	Would Tuesday suit you?	
	Would you be available on Tuesday?	
Informal	What about?	
	Let's say	

Agreeing to an appointment / on a date

Formal	Thank you for your email. I would be available to discuss on (date) at (time and place).	
Neutral /	Tuesday sounds fine. Shall we say around (time) at	
Informal	(place)? Thursday suits me.	
	Thursday would be perfect.	

Setting a time

What sort of time would suit you?
Is 3 pm a good time for you?
If possible, I'd like to meet in the morning.
How does 2pm sound to you?

Saying that a time is not convenient

Formal	Unfortunately, I will be away on business during the week
	of 6 to 11 July so I will be unable to meet you then.
	However, if you are available in the following week, I
	would be glad to arrange a meeting with you.

Neutral	I will be out of the office on Wednesday and Thursday, b I will be available on Friday afternoon.	
Informal	I'm afraid I can't on the 3 rd . What about the 6 th ?	

Cancelling an appointment

Formal	Unfortunately, due to some unforeseen business, I will be	
	unable to keep our appointment for tomorrow afternoon.	
	Could we arrange another time later in the week?	
Neutral	I'm afraid that I have to cancel our meeting on	
	Wednesday, as something unexpected has come up. Wou	
	you be free to meet early next week?	
	I'm sorry, but I won't be able to make it on Monday. Could we meet on Tuesday instead?	
Informal	Something has just cropped up and I won't be able to meet	
	you this afternoon. Can we make another time?	

Apologising

Formal	I apologise for any inconvenience.	
Informal	I'm sorry about cancelling.	

Asking for confirmation

Neutral	Please confirm if this date and time is suitable / convenient for you.	
Informal	Can you please let me know if this is OK for you?	

Writing to someone you don't know

	Formal I am and I would be interested to meet you to discus	

I would be grateful if you could indicate a convenient to		I would be grateful if you could indicate a convenient time
		to meet during this week
	I look forward to hearing from you.	
	Informal	I'm sorry about cancelling.

Culture tip: tell them!

If you don't know the person, you'll need to give some background information about yourself or your company.

Chairing international meetings & negotiating

Introduction

Function	Phrases
Begin	OK, let's get down to business.
Welcoming formalities	Thank you everyone for coming
	today.
	Has everyone received a copy of the
	agenda?
	Let's get started.
Apologies	I've received the following apologies
	for absence from
Agree on a minute-taker	Sarah will be taking the minutes
	today.
State objective	As you can see, our main objective
	today is to
Establish discussion	I suggest we follow the items in the
	order of the agenda.
Agree on timing	As for timing, I'd like to be finished
	by three o'clock.
Begin the discussion	I'd like to go to point one on the
	agenda.
	I'd like to begin by saying
	The first point I'd like to make is
	These are the issues we would need /
	like to discuss:

Discussion

Function	Phrases
Asking for people's opinions	What do you think about this?
	Does anyone have anything to add?
	What are your views on this?
Involving people	Paul, you've been very quiet. Would
	you like to comment?
Encourage	That's a good / valid / interesting
	point.
Repeat	I'm sorry; could you repeat that,
	please?
Keeping control of the	I think we're digressing; can we keep
meeting	to the main points?

	Can we get back to the agenda? Could we move on to item 2 on the agenda? Can we come back to this point later?
Referring to time	We're running a little short of time.
Interrupt	Can I stop you there? I'd like to hear some other views.
Postpone	Can we leave this point for another meeting?
Moving on	OK. Can we move to the next point?
Clarifying	Could I just clarify something here?

Decisions and conclusion

Function	Phrases
Asking for agreement	OK. Can we agree to?
	Are we in agreement on this?
Asking for a vote	Can we put this to the vote?
	Shall we vote? All in favour? All
	against?
Confirm the decision	Good. Then we have decided to
Check	Is that clear? Does everyone agree?
Close agenda	OK. I think we've covered
	everything.
Summarising	Before we finish, I'd just like to
	summarise the key points.
Assign tasks	So, Petra, you will produce a report
	on for our next meeting, right?
Date of next meeting	I'd like to propose that we meet again
	on
	Can we fix a time for the next
	meeting?
AOB (Any Other Business)	Is there any other business?
Closing the meeting	OK, we can finish here. Thank you
	everyone for coming.

Participating in international meetings Giving your opinion

8 v 1	
Strong	I'm convinced that we must
	We have no choice but to
Neutral	In my opinion, we need to
	My view is that we should
Moderated	I would suggest that we
	Why don't we

Agreeing / Disagreeing

	•
Agreement	I agree with you.
	I / we totally agree.
	Definitely.
	You really have a good point there.
Moderated disagreement	I'm afraid I don't entirely agree with
	this.
	To a certain extent I agree, but
	I do see your point, but
	I'm afraid we can't go along with that.
	This is not entirely acceptable to us.
	I'm sorry but there's one point we'll
	have to discuss in more detail.
Disagreement	I totally disagree.
	I can't agree with that
Culture tip / warning	Remember, the directness with which
	you disagree has different values in
	different cultures. It could be regarded
	as an aggressive act!

Responses

Positive	Absolutely.
	Good idea.
Cautious	That might work.
	Possibly.
Negative	I'm not sure.
	I don't think this will work.

Clarifying

Can I just clarify our position?	
Could you explain that last point you made again, please?	
I'm sorry but I didn't quite understand your last point.	

Summarising

Let's summarise what we agreed on.
So where do we go from here?

Ending

Well, that's it, I think. Are there any further questions?	
Thank you for coming.	

Other skills

Interrupting	(Excuse me,) Can I come in here?
Stopping an interruption	If I could just finish this point
Adding	Can I add something?
Digressing	Can I digress for just a moment?
Focusing the discussion	I think we need to discuss this more in
	depth.

Making requests and offers

Formal	I was wondering whether I could leave a little earlier today.	
	I would greatly appreciate it if you could let me have your	
	reply by tomorrow.	
Neutral	Excuse me, could I just?	
(friendly)	Could I borrow your pen, please?	
	Would you like some coffee, perhaps?	
	Excuse me; do you happen to have?	
	Would you mind passing this on?	
	Reply: Of course not, here you are.	
	Would it be possible for me to leave one hour earlier? I've	
	got a doctor's appointment at 11.	
Informal	Can I get you a coffee?	
	Can you shut the door, please?	

Culture tips: being polite

Often, "can I/can you" is considered too informal in professional contexts (in German, as for people who are "per du"). To be on the safe side, use the more formal "could I/could you", and never forget to add "please"! Remember, the bigger the favour you ask, the longer the phrase.

Also, avoid the verb "want" in polite conversations or emails. Better use "would like" or "wish".

Avoid the old-fashioned "would you be so kind as to..." as it may be understood as sarcasm today.

Tips for taking the minutes (= das Protokoll schreiben)

You should record the following:

- time and location of the meeting
- persons present / excused
- points discussed (not details)
- · decisions / agreements / actions
 - future meeting(s)

Note:

Your text should be brief, accurate, and clear. The minutes can be written in note or bullet form, but accuracy and clarity are vital in case of future disagreements. Make sure that you get all numbers and figures mentioned right!

Vocabulary for international meetings

abgeschwächt	moderated
abschweifen (vom Thema)	to digress
Ausweis (Besucher-)	badge
Aufsichtsrat	supervisory board
behandeln (etw)	to cover sth
eintragen (sich)	sign in
Empfangssekretär	front desk receptionist
Empfehlung	recommendation
Gremium (beratend)	advisory board
etwas leiten	to head sth

Gastgeber	host
annehmen, vermuten	to assume sth
Gegenstand, Thema	subject/topic/issue (NOT theme!)
kurz und knapp	brief
Sonstiges	AOB (any other business)
Tagesordnung	agenda
Tagesordnungspunkt	item
unterstellt sein (jdm.)	to report to sb
verantwortlich sein gegenüber	to be accountable to sb
jdm.	
verfügbar, frei	available
vorsichtig	cautious
Vorsitzende / Vorsitzender	chair / chairperson
Vorstand	executive board
Protokoll	minutes (NOT protocol!)
Protokollführer	minute-taker
verteilen / schreiben	to circulate / to take the minutes
Vorschlag	proposal, suggestion
Zentrale	headquarters
zu klärende Fragen	matters arising
zusammenfassen	to summarise
Zusammenfassung	summary

Ein Meeting	
absagen	cancel
abhalten	hold
beenden	close
beginnen	kick off
eröffnen	open
festlegen	fix
führen	chaira meeting
teilnehmen können	make
teilnehmen an	participate in
teilnehmen	attend
verschieben	postpone
vereinbaren	arrange
vertagen	adjourn
vorverlegen	bring forward
neu vereinbaren	reschedule
wieder aufnehmen	resume

Personal notes:	

Presentations

Introduction

Function	Phrases
Classic introduction	greeting – thanks audience for
	coming – name (job position) –
	presentation title/subject – objective –
	structure – main points – timing – say
	when you would like questions – link
	to first section
Greeting	Good morning, everyone. I think we
	can get started.
Thanking	Thank you all for coming.
Personal details	My name is and I'm (position).
Subject of talk	The topic of today's presentation is
Objective	My main objective is to
Structure	I've divided my presentation into x
	parts.
Main points	First, I'll talk about Second,
	and lastly,
Timing	The presentation will take around
	minutes.
Questions	If you have any questions,
	· please feel free to interrupt me (any
	time).
	· I'd prefer to take them at the end.
Handouts	I have some handouts for you at the
	end.

Culture tip: "first" versus "at first"

When you are using so-called signposting phrases to indicate at which stage exactly you are, don't use "at first" as it means that there will be some sort of change (e.g. "At first they hated each other, but then they became friends.") Instead, you should say, "My first point is ..." or "First, I'm going to talk about..."

Signalling what you are doing

Function	Phrases
Linking to the first section	So, to begin, I'd like to look at
Ending a section	OK, that's all I wanted to say about
	that.
Opening a new section	If there are no questions, I'll move on
	to
Exploring several points	In relation to / Regarding / With
	respect to
Digressing	If I could just digress for a second,
Coming back	OK, let me come back to the main
	issue.

Conclusion

Function	Phrases
Signalling the end	OK, that brings me to the end of my
	presentation.
Summarising	Before I finish, I'd like to summarise
	the key points.
Inviting questions	So, if there are any questions, I'd be
	very happy to try to answer them.

Questions

Function	Phrases
Being positive	That's a good / interesting / complex /
	topical question.
Clarifying	Sorry, I'm not sure I understood.
	You're asking about?
Avoiding	I'm not sure, but I could certainly
	check for you, OK?
Checking	Did I answer your question?
	What do you think?
Encourage	Are there any more / any final
	questions?

Ending

Function	Phrases
Final statement	To conclude, I would like to say that
Closing	Thank you very much for listening.
	Thank you.

Tips for presentations

Good Planning – the "3 Ps" are:

People	Who is my audience? Beware of cultural differences!	
Place	Check equipment, room size, seating arrangement.	
Purpose	Why are you talking?	
	To inform, educate, persuade, motivate, get feedback,	

Getting started

_	
Organisation	When choosing content, follow a four-step process:
	· First, collect ideas.
	· Next, select the most useful ideas for your objective.
	Thirdly, group the points into logical units.
	· Finally, sequence these units to create a clear thread.
Introduction	Start with something unusual, surprise your audience!

Delivering

Verbal	Clear structure: use (easy) language, Keep It Short & Simple (KISS)! Impact: repeat, contrast, question, and engage
Voice	Record yourself; mind volume (address far wall!), speed and intonation, use pauses for effect (no cow sounds "er" or "uh"!)
Body	Mind cross-cultural factors; be confident and relaxed; move a little, keep eye contact, maximise your body square; use your fingers for counting (back of your hand to audience!), avoid tics!

Note:

Delivering is said to be 7% verbal, 38% voice, and 55% body language.

Finishing well

Summarise at the end! Provide short clear message for the audience to take home.

The most common mistakes

Design of visuals	Delivery
Too much text. Good	Reading from visuals, saying exactly
presentations have little text but	the same thing as displayed. Writing
pics, charts, maps	long sentences on a flipchart.
Illegible and / or inconsistent	Talking without looking at the
text, errors on slides	audience, or even presenting your
	back to them.
Too many "seen before"	Standing where you block the view.
cartoons	
Unclear or mismatched colours	Moving too quickly from one visual
	to the next.
Visuals that all look the same	Not knowing how to use the
	equipment

Notes

Use just keywords on your notes, no complete sentences, and DIN A6 format or smaller!

Use easy words and grammatical structures you understand yourself! Make the most of your visuals!

Transport

Types of public transport

die "Öffis"	public (means of) transport
Straßenbahn	tram
U-Bahn	underground
Linienbus	bus
Schnellbahn, Zug	train
"Pendler" (Zug)	stopping train
Pendler (Person)	commuter
in die Arbeit pendeln	to commute to work
Reisebus	coach
Waggon	carriage
Schlafwagen	sleeping car
Speisewagen	dining car
Fahrplan	timetable
ein-(aus)steigen	to get on (off) at
umsteigen	to change at (Karlsplatz) to (the U2)
Haltestelle	train/underground station but
	bus/tram stop
Bahnsteig	platform

Example of "from A to B":

You can walk to Museumsquartier, it's not far. There you take underground line U2 to Schottentor and change to tram line 43. It's only two stops from there.

Culture tip: driving?

"Drive" means personally controlling a vehicle, so unless you are actually a bus driver, you don't say "I drive with the bus" but "I go by / take the bus"!

Buildings and places

commercial centre	area with many banks and offices
shopping centre / mall	shops indoors or outdoors
(multi-storey / underground)	for many cars (Parkhaus /
car park	Parkgarage)
high-rise buildings	buildings with many floors
subsurbs	outskirts of town

Asking for and giving directions

Asking for directions	Excuse me, how do I get to?
	What's the quickest way of getting to
	?
Getting information	Will you be coming by car or by
	train?
	Which hotel are you staying at?
Giving information	We're not far from / We're quite
	close to
	It's about a mile / kilometre / two
	blocks from
	We're opposite / next to / in front of /
	across the road from / round the
	corner from the supermarket.
Giving directions	Come off the motorway / highway at
	Junction / Exit 12.
	It's signposted 'St. Pölten Ost'.
	Follow the signs to
	There's a one-way system in the
	centre of town.
	Take the A22 to 'Stockerau Ost'.
	Go straight on/left/right at the
	lights/at the roundabout /at the
	junction of and
	Go past the supermarket/filling
	station.
	You'll come to / see
	It's the first turning on the right after
	the bank / pharmacy.
Use landmarks to help	
Landmarks are points of	There's a large sign / a crossroads
reference and help the other	On your left you'll see an industrial
person understand where to	centre / a hospital / the police station.
find you or your office.	Just after the shopping centre / mall.

Go past the	petrol station	/ the garage.
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Culture tips: the right direction

If you're giving directions over the phone, remember to speak slowly to allow the other person to write things down. Check that the other person has understood.

If you're speaking face-to-face with someone, use your hands to show left, right, or straight on.

Use "please" when you ask someone to give you directions. It's polite and will normally get you what you want!

On the move

Ampel	traffic lights
Fußgänger	pedestrian
Gehsteig	pavement
Kreisverkehr	roundabout
Kreuzung	(a) crossroads / junction
T-Kreuzung	T-junction
Kurve	bend
Lastwagen	lorry (US truck)
pendeln	to commute to work
Radarfalle	speed camera
Radfahrer	cyclist
Randstein	kerb
Stau	traffic jam / congestion
Stoßverkehr	rush hour
Verkehrszeichen	road sign
verstopfte Straßen	congested roads
Zebrastreifen	pedestrian crossing

Sightseeing in Vienna

Names and translations and / or explanations

Schloss Schönbrunn	Schönbrunn Palace (baroque, opulent interior)
Tiergarten Schönbrunn	Schönbrunn Zoo
Prater	public park, traditional amusement
Flater	park
Riesenrad	Giant Ferris Wheel
Stephansdom	St Stephen's Cathedral
Pummerin	Austria's largest and heaviest church
Fullillicilli	bell
Hofburg	palace, used to be the residence of the
	emperor and family; today it houses
	the federal president's office
Spanische Hofreitschule	Spanish Riding School
Wiener Rathaus	Vienna City Hall
1. Bezirk	First District
Staatsoper	State Opera House
Graben, Kärtner Straße	two exclusive shopping streets and
	pedestrian zones, city centre
Kaiserliche Schatzkammer	Imperial Treasury
Schloss Belvedere	Belvedere Palace, with art collection (Klimt)
MuseumsQuartier	baroque complex housing art
_	museums
Albertina	Habsburg state rooms with art
	collections
Naturhistorisches Museum	Museum of Natural History
Kunsthistorisches Museum	Museum of the History of Art
Heeresgeschichtliches Museum	Museum of Military History
Technisches Museum	Museum of Technology
Haus des Meeres	Aqua Terra Zoo
Nationalbibliothek	National Library
Musikverein	concert hall; venue of the Vienna
	Philharmonic's New Year's Concert

Bookings

Starting the conversation

T. I. 121	1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 2
I'd like to	book a double room (for two nights from Monday, 2
	Aug to)
	book a table (for two at 9 pm tomorrow night)
	book a flight (from London to Paris on Tuesday, 10
	Nov)
	book seats (tonight for "Phantom of the Opera")
	reserve a room, a table or seats.

Responding to questions

Question	Response
How many people is the booking for?	It's for two people.
How would you like to pay?	Can I pay by credit card?
Could you spell your surname, please?	Yes, it's $M - E - I - E - R$.
Can I please have your credit card	Yes, it's
number and expiry date?	

Travel bookings

9	
Question	Response
What time do you wish to arrive (leave,	I'd like to arrive in London
check-out)?	by 6 pm.
Would you like to take advantage of our	No, thank you.
special insurance (extra facilities,)?	Could you give me some
	extra information?

Asking for more information

Does this price include all taxes? (for hotels and flights)	
Is there a booking fee? (for flights, theatre tickets)	
Could you confirm my booking?	
What time should I arrive? (for theatres, restaurants)	
What time do I have to check in (out)? (for flights, hotels)	
Is there an ensuite bathroom? (for hotels)	

Tips for bookings

Remember the essential information

How many nights (a	at a hotel)?
--------------------	--------------

How many people (at a restaurant or the theatre)?

What time (for a flight or at a restaurant)?

How much does it cost (for a flight, theatre tickets or a hotel room)?

Research the vocabulary you need before you make a call

What type of theatre seat you need?

What type of hotel room you want?

Where you want to sit on the plane?

Culture tip: booking

Remember to pronounce numbers and letters clearly.

When you spell something or give a number, speak slowly and emphasise the important information.

Banking

Vocabulary for banking

ein Bankkonto eröffnen	to open a bank account
Bankomatkarte	bank card
Bargeld abheben	to withdraw cash
bar zahlen	to pay cash
Bankomat	cash machine (ATM)
Bankomatcode	pin number (personal
	identification number)
Darlehen	personal loan
Dauerauftrag	standing order
Direktüberweisung	direct bank transfer
einzahlen	to pay it in / to deposit
Filiale	local branch (office) of the bank
Geld wechseln	to change money
Geld überweisen	to transfer money
Hypothek	mortgage
Kontoauszug	bank statement
mit Kreditkarte zahlen	to pay by credit card
sich etwas leisten können	to be able to afford sth
Überziehungsmöglichkeit	overdraft facility
Versicherung	insurance
Wert / wert sein	value / to be worth €€€
Zinsen zahlen	to pay interest
Zinssatz	interest rate
Zahlung tätigen	to make payments

Notes and coins

banknotes	coins
ten euros	fifty cents
a twenty-euro note	a 50-cent coin, a one-euro coin

Common verbs

to spend €€€(on sth)	I spent €150 on shoes yesterday.
to pay €€€(for sth)	I paid €150 for these shoes.
to cost	They cost (me) a fortune.
to charge	The plumber charged me €150.
to lend (herborgen)	Could you lend me €10, please?
to borrow (ausborgen)	Could I borrow €10, please?
to waste €€€(on sth)	He wasted €550 on some gadget.
to save (up) (for sth)	I'm saving (up) for my holiday.

Graded adjectives

free	cheap	reasonable	quite expensive	very expensive	incredibly expensive
-	€	€€	€€€	€€€€	€€€€€€€€

Employment

Belegschaft	In Austria, there are two basic types
	of personnel:
Angestellte	employees and
Arbeiter, Arbeiterinnen	workers.
Gehalt	Employees receive a salary , while
Lohn	workers get wages.
Lohnsteuer	Both pay payroll tax and
Sozialversicherungsbeiträge	social security contributions.
Öffentlicher Dienst	In public (or civil) service , we
	have
Beamte	civil servants and
Vertragsbedienstete	civil service employees.
Arbeitsverhältnis /	Many people don't have regular
Arbeitsverträge	employment (contracts).
Saisonarbeit	Some do temporary work or have
Freier DV	a freelance contract or
Werkvertrag	a work service contracts,
befristeter Vertrag	a fixed-term contract or
unbefristeter Vertrag	a permanent contract.
sich freinehmen	People take time off work.
sich einen Tag freinehmen	They take a day off or
auf Urlaub gehen	go on holiday. This is called
Erholungsurlaub	annual leave. Expectant mothers
	can also go on
Mutterschaftskarenz	maternity leave, or parents on
Elternkarenz	parental leave.
sich krankmelden	Sometimes people call in sick.
Krankenstand	They have to go on sick leave
Arbeitsunfähigkeitsmeldung	and bring a doctor's note .
in Pension gehen	Finally they retire so they are
Pension (Zustand)	in retirement and get a
Pension (Geld)	pension / retirement benefits.

Austrian administration

General information

	1
Bund	The federal state has certain tasks,
	such as:
Bundesgesetzgebung	federal legislation ,
bestimmte Politiken (z.B.	state policies (e.g. defence policy),
Verteidigungspolitik)	and
allgemeine Rechtssprechung	ordinary jurisdiction .
	The State is subdivided into
Bundesländer	federal provinces with certain
	legislative and executive powers,
	headed by a
Landeshauptmann, -frau	provincial governor, and then into
Verwaltungsbezirke	administrative districts and
Gemeinden	municipalities, which are
	independent administrative bodies
	and can issue
Verordnungen	regulations within their scope of
Verfassung	statutory power (protected by the
	constitution).
Kommunalbehörden	Provinces and municipalities are
	local or regional authorities
	represented by
Allgemeine Vertretungskörper	general representation bodies,
	such as the
Nationalrat	National Assembly, the
Landtag	provincial parliament, the
Gemeinde(rat)	municipal council, and the
Bezirksvertretung	district council (Vienna only).

Federal provinces

Wien	Vienna
Burgenland	Burgenland
Niederösterreich	Lower Austria
Oberösterreich	Upper Austria
Salzburg	Salzburg
Tirol	Tyrol
Steiermark	Styria
Kärnten	Carinthia
Vorarlberg	Vorarlberg

Federal ministries (official names)

Bundeskanzleramt	Federal Chancellery
BM für Arbeit, Soziales,	Federal Ministry of Labour, Social
Gesundheit und	Affairs, Health and Consumer
Konsumentenschutz	Protection
BM für Bildung, Wissenschaft	Federal Ministry of Education,
und Forschung	Science and Research
BM für Digitalisierung und	Federal Ministry for Digital and
Wirtschaftsstandort	Economic Affairs
BM für Europa, Integration und	Federal Ministry for Europe,
Äußeres	Integration and Foreign Affairs
BM für Finanzen	Federal Ministry of Finance
BM für Inneres	Federal Ministry of the Interior
BM für Landesverteidigung	Federal Ministry of Defence
BM für Nachhaltigkeit und	Federal Ministry of Sustainability
Tourismus	and Tourism
BM für öffentlichen Dienst und	Federal Ministry for the Civil
Sport	Service and Sports
BM für Verfassung, Reformen,	Federal Ministry of Constitutional
Deregulierung und Justiz	Affairs, Reforms, Deregulation and
	Justice
BM für Verkehr, Innovation und	Federal Ministry for Transport,
Technologie	Innovation and Technology

The EU Presidency

EU-Ratspräsidentschaft	Presidency of the Council of the
-	European Union
Europäischer Rat (Staats- und	European Council (Heads of State
Regierungschefs)	and Government)
Rat der Europäischen Union	Council of the European Union
(Ministerrat)	(Council of Ministers)
Europa-Abgeordneter	Member of European Parliament
Ausschuss der Regionen	Committee of Regions
Europäischer Wirtschafts- und	European Social and Economic
Sozialausschuss	Committee
Europäischer Investitionsfonds	European Investment Fund
Europäische Investitionsbank	European Investment Bank
Europarat	Council of Europe
Europäische Bank für	European Bank for Reconstruction
Wiederaufbau und	and Development
Entwicklung	
Internationaler Währungsfonds	International Monetary Fund (IMF)
(IWF)	
Europäische Zentralbank	European Central Bank
Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik	Foreign & Security Policy
Gemeinsame Sicherheits- und	common security and defence policy
Verteidigungspolitik (GSVP)	(CSDP)
Europäischer Sozialfonds	European Social Fund (ESF)
(ESF)	
Europäischer Fonds für die	European Globalisation Adjustment
Anpassung an die	Fund (EGF)
Globalisierung (EGF)	
Europäischer Hilfsfonds für die	Fund for European Aid to the most
Schwächsten (FEAD)	Deprived (FEAD)
EU-Programm für	EU Programme for Employment &
Beschäftigung und soziale	Social Innovation (EaSI)
Innovation (EaSI),	
Charta der Grundrechte der	EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
Europäischen Union	

Migration

abschieben	to deport
Abschiebung	removal, deportation
Abschiebehaft	pre-removal detention
Assistenzeinsatz	assistance operation (military aid to
	civil powers)
Asyl und Einwanderung	Asylum and immigration
Asylantrag	asylum application, application for
	asylum
einen Asylantrag stellen	to apply for asylum
einen Asylantrag ablehnen	to reject an application for asylum
Asylrecht	right of asylum
Asylverfahren	asylum procedure
Asylwerber, Asylwerberin	asylum seeker
Aufenthaltstitel	residence permit
Aufnahmestelle	reception centre (asylum)
Aufnahmeland	host country (migration)
Auslieferung	extradition
Ausweichroute	alternate route
Beschäftigungsbewilligung	employment licence
Bundesamt für Fremdenwesen	Federal Office for Immigration and
und Asyl	Asylum
Drittstaatsangehöriger	third-country national (TCN)
Dublin-Überstellung	Dublin transfer
Dublin-Verordnung	Dublin Regulation
Einreiseverbot	residence ban
Einwanderungsbehörde	immigration authority
Erstantrag	first-time application
EU-Außengrenze	external EU border
Fremdenpolizei	aliens police
Familienzusammenführung	family reunification
Flüchtling	refugee
Fremdenrecht	aliens law

gesamtstaatliche Lösung	whole-of-nation approach
Grenzmanagement	border control management
Grenzschutz	border protection
grenzüberschreitende	cross-border cooperation
Kooperation	
Grenzüberwachung	border control
Grundversorgungsvereinbarung	Basic Provision Agreement
Herkunftsstaat	country of origin
illegale Einwanderung	illegal immigration
Konventionsflüchtling	convention refugee
Lebensunterhaltsmittel	means of subsistence
legale Einreise	lawful entry
Migrationsfluss	migration flow
Migrationskrise	migration crisis
Nicht-Zurückweisung	non-refoulement
Rückstellung	transfer
Rückführung	return
Rückführungsabkommen	return agreement
Schengengebiet	Schengen territory
Schlepper	human smuggler, human trafficker
Schubhaft	detention pending deportation
subsidiärer Schutz	subsidiary protection
subsidiär Schutzberechtigter	beneficiary of subsidiary protection
Umverteilung & Neuansiedlung	relocation and resettlement
Verfahrenszentren	procedure centres
vertreiben, Vertriebener	to displace, displaced person
Völkerrecht	public international law
Vorabprüfung	pre-screening
Wirtschaftsflüchtling	economic migrant
Zurückweisung	refusal of entry, refoulement
zuzugsberechtigter Familienangehöriger	dependant
Zwangsheirat	forced marriage

Make, do, and take

to make	a mistalta (- an arrar)
10 таке	a mistake (= an error)
	a meal (= prepare)
	an appointment (= arrange)
	money (= get rich)
	friends (= meet new people)
	a decision (= decide)
	a noise
	progress/headway (= get better)
	a difference (= have an effect)
to do	homework (for an English lesson)
	the housework (= cleaning)
	a subject (= study a subject)
	a course (= attend)
	the shopping (= buy food)
	research (in a science)
	sb a favour (= help sb)
	well (= succeed; opp. badly)
	something / nothing / anything
to take	an exam (= sit an exam)
	a picture (= photo)
	a break (= a rest)
	a decision (also "make")
	a shower (also "have")
	a bus / train / taxi (also "get")
	time (to do sth)
	a seat (= sit down)
	time off (= time away from work)

Culture tip: "make" versus "do"

In many cases where in German we would use the verb "machen", in English we'd use "do" (e.g. to do some work, to do sports). "Make" basically has some kind of result; e.g. if you make a cake, you have a visible result, or if you make an appointment, you've got one then.

False Friends

False friends are words that look very similar in two languages (often they have the same origin) but that have different meanings. Here are some shared by German and English.

False Friend(s)	English	False Friend(s)	German
German		English	
adäquat	appropriate	adequate	Ausreichend
AkademikerIn	university graduate	academic	WissenschafterIn,
			UniversitätslehrerIn
aktuell	topical, current, up-to-date	actual	tatsächlich, eigentlich, wirklich
Ambulanz	outpatient clinic	ambulance	Rettung, Krankenwagen
Annonce	advertisement	announcement	Ansage, Durchsage
bekommen	get, receive	become	werden
Billion	trillion	billion	Milliarde
(sich) blamieren	to make a fool of oneself	to blame sb (for sth)	jemandem die Schuld geben
			(für etwas)
Bodybag	mono-strap backpack	bodybag	Leichensack
brav	good, well-behaved	brave	mutig
Büro	office	bureau	desk; department
Chef	boss, superior	chef/chief	Koch/Häuptling
dezent	discreet, modest	decent	anständig
defekt	defective	defect (v)	überlaufen
delikat	delicious; sensitive	delicate	empfindlich

False Friend(s)	English	False Friend(s)	German
German		English	
dementiert	denied, refuted	demented	dement, wahnsinnig
Dessert	dessert	desert	Wüste
Direktion	directorate	direction	Richtung
Dom	cathedral	dome	Kuppel
einladen (Restaurant)	treat sb to sth	invite	einladen (Feier etc.)
engagiert	committed, dedicated	engaged	verlobt; besetzt (Tel.)
Etikett	label, price tag	etiquette	gutes Benehmen
eventuell	possible, potential	eventual	irgendwann; schließlich
Fabrik	factory, works	fabric	Stoff (Textil)
Fehler	mistake, error	failure	Misserfolg, Versagen
familiär	family (adj)	familiar	bekannt, vertraut
Fantasie (Kreativität)	imagination	fantasy	Vorstellung, Einbildung
Fleisch (zum Essen)	meat	flesh	Fleisch (Teil des Körpers)
Formular	form	formula	Formel
genial	brilliant	genial	angenehm; umgänglich
Gürtel	belt	girdle	Hüfthalter; Korsett
Gasthaus	restaurant, pub	guesthouse	Pension
gültig	valid, enforceable	guilty	schuldig
Gymnasium	grammar school	gymnasium	Turnsaal
Handy	mobile (phone)	handy	praktisch, nützlich

False Friend(s)	English	False Friend(s)	German
German		English	
Hochschule	university	high school	Sekundarschule
human	humane	human	menschlich
Karte (Landkarte)	map	card	(Visiten)Karte
Kaution	deposit; bail (criminal)	caution	Vorsicht
kompetent	proficient, capable	competent	passabel; zuständig
Konkurrenz	competition	concurrence	Einverständnis
kontrollieren	check	control	steuern, beherrschen
(überprüfen)			
konsequent	consistent	consequent	daraus folgend
Konzern	corporate group	concern	Anliegen, Belang, Sorge
Kredit	Ioan	credit	Guthaben, Gutschrift
Kritik	criticism; review (book)	critic	KritikerIn
Lokal	pub, bar, restaurant	local (noun)	Einheimische(r)
Manager	chief executive officer (CEO)	manager	Filialleiter, Verwalter
Mappe (Hefter)	folder	map	Landkarte
Marmelade	jam	marmalade	Marmelade aus Zitrusfrüchten
massiv	solid	massive	riesig
Menü	set meal	meun	Speisekarte
Messe	(trade) fair; mass (church)	ssəm	Unordnung, Chaos
Mist	manure (Stall); rubbish	mist	leichter Nebel

False Friend(s)	English	False Friend(s)	German
German		English	
mobben	to bullying/ harass sb	to mob	umlagern, lynchen
nicht müssen	not to have/need to	must not	etwas nicht dürfen
Note (Zeugnis)	mark, grade	note	Notiz
Notiz	note	notice	Schild; Nachricht
Objektiv	lens (camera)	objective	Ziel
Oldtimer	classic/vintage car	old-timer	Veteran, "altes Eisen"
ordinär	vulgar	ordinary	gewöhnlich
Paket	parcel	packet	Packung, Schachtel
Personal	personnel, staff	personal	persönlich
PhysikerIn	physicist	physician	Arzt
Pickel	spot, pimple	pickle	Essiggurkerl
Platte	slab; platter; record	plate	Teller
prägnant	concise	pregnant	schwanger
prinzipiell	fundamental, basic	principal	hauptsächlich
Probe	sample; rehearsal (theatre)	probe	untersuchen, erforschen; Sonde
			(Medizin)
Prozess (Gericht)	trial, legal proceedings	process	Verfahren, Methode
Prokurist	(power of) attorney	procurer	Zuhälter
Programm (TV)	channel	programme	Sendung

False Friend(s)	English	False Friend(s)	German
German		English	
Promotion (akad.)	ceremony for awarding a doctoral degree	promotion	Werbung; Beförderung
Prospekt	brochure, leaflet	prospect	Aussicht (auf Erfolg)
Protokoll (Meeting)	minutes	protocol	Protokoll bei Hofe; IT
Provision	commission	provision	Vorkehrung; Klausel
psychisch	mental	psychic	übernatürlich
Rate	instalment	rate	Maß; Geschwindigkeit
Rezept	recipe (cook); prescription (doctor)	receipt	Quittung
Reklamation	complaint	reclamation	Rückforderung
Rente	pension, retirement benefits	rent	Miete
rentabel	profitable	rentable	zu mieten, mietbar
Roman	novel	roman	Römisch
Rückseite	back, rear	backside	Hintern (!)
Sekt	sparkling wine, champagne	sect	Sekte
selbstbewusst	self-confident	self-conscious	verlegen, linkisch
sensibel	sensitive	sensible	vernünftig
seriös	respectable	serious	ernst, ernsthaft
Smoking	dinner jacket, tuxedo	smoking	das Rauchen
Stadium	stage	stadium	Stadion

False Friend(s)	English	False Friend(s)	German
German		English	
Stapel	stack, pile	staple	Heftklammer
Stock	floor (Etage), stick (Holz)	stock	Vorrat, Bestand
Stuhl	chair	stool	Hocker
Strom (Energie)	electricity	stream	Bach, kleiner Fluss
Strom (Fluss)	river		
Studium	(course of) studies	study	Arbeitszimmer; Studie
Suite	suite	suit	Anzug
sympathisch	nice, pleasant, likeable	sympathetic	mitfühlend
Tablett	tray	tablet	Tablette; PC
Thema	subject, topic	theme	Motto, Hauptmotiv
überhören	to miss / not hear sth	to overhear	zufällig mitbekommen
übersehen	to overlook	to oversee	beaufsichtigen
übernehmen	to take over	to overtake	überholen
prüfen	to check; examine/test	to prove	beweisen
realisieren	to implement; liquidate	to realise	einsehen, begreifen
sparen	to save, economise	to spare	jd verschonen, übrig haben
uəpuəds	to donate	to spend	Geld ausgeben, Zeit verbringen
winken	to wave	to wink	zwinkern
vital	full of life	vital	zwingend notwendig
Wellnesshotel	spa	wellness	Wohlbefinden
weit (entfernt)	far (away)	wide	breit

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Abbreviations used:

UK ... British English

US ... American English

i.e. ... that is (id est, German d.h.)

e.g. ... for example (exempli gratia, German z.B.)

sb ... somebody (German jd., jdn., jdm.)

sth ... something (German etwas, eine Sache)

BM...Bundesministerium (Federal Ministry)