

Topic 2 Cultural Geography of Germany

Lesson 2 What are some commonly used words in the German language?

Lesson Objective

The student will explain the relationship between language and culture.

Materials and Resources

- Worksheet 9 “English/German Terms”
- Teacher Resource 5 “Greetings”
- Transparencies 5 “Let’s Learn German”

Strategies

English and German come from a common source called Germanic languages. Around the year 400 A.D., Germanic-speaking tribes from northern Germany sailed to the British Isles, stayed there and kept their language. That’s why many English and German words are similar:

English	German
house	Haus
wind	Wind
water	Wasser
father	Vater
mother	Mutter
good	gut
peppermint	Pfefferminz
apple	Apfel
fish	Fisch
	etc.

The **Transparencies 5A-E “Let’s Learn German,”** present students with an alphabetical listing of words which are similar in both languages. Ask students to identify 10 words in German and write a brief definition in English.

The first group of German settlers came to America in 1608. German has always been spoken in the United States, and German books and newspapers have been printed in America. Today, we learn each other’s language in school.

To introduce students to the German language, distribute **Worksheet 9, “English/German**

Terms.” Ask students to complete the chart by adding the English translation of the German word. Have students practice repeating the words orally. The teacher may wish to make flash cards with an English word on one side and the German word on the opposite side. Also, labeling selected items in the classroom will show students similarities in the two languages:

English	German	Pronunciation
desk	Tisch	tish
chair	Stuhl	shtool
window	Fenster	FEHNST-uh
door	Tür	tewr
light	Licht	likht
school	Schule	SHOOL-uh
clock	Uhr	OO-ere
boy	Junge	U-nge
girl	Mädchen	MAYT-khen
book	Buch	bookh
pen	Kugelschreiber	KOOG-el-shreyb-uh
pencil	Bleistift	BLEYE-shtift
dictionary	Wörterbuch	VER-tehr-bookh
teacher	Lehrer (male)	LAYR-uh
	Lehrerin (female)	LAYR-uh-rin

[Note that all nouns in the German language begin with a capital letter. This is true even when they appear “inside” a sentence.]

Teacher Resource 5, “Greetings” is provided for teachers desiring to teach students frequently

used expressions in the German language. Explain to students that adults in Germany only refer to each other on a first name basis if they are personal friends in a social setting. Business associates and casual friends are referred to as Mr. or Mrs. [Herr, Frau, whereas the form for "Miss" = "Fräulein" has become very outdated in all German speaking countries].

The German language is also spoken in Switzerland and Austria. For more information about these countries, contact their embassies in Washington, D.C.

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