

German-speaking countries



Germany

Population: 85 million
Native speakers population: 92%
Second language population: 7%

High German originates from the Hanover region and is the standard form of German used in writing, politics, academia, and journalism. Germans are very proud of their regional dialects, which vary widely, from Low German (Plattdeutsch) around the North Sea, to Bayerisch in the south and around Munich.

How to say hello in different parts of Germany!

Hamburg: "Moin!"
Munich: "Grüß Gott!"
Berlin: "Juten Tach!"
Stuttgart: "Gunn Tach!"
Cologne: "Tach!"



GERMAN IS ALSO A NATIONAL MINORITY LANGUAGE IN BRAZIL, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, HUNGARY, NAMIBIA, POLAND, ROMANIA, RUSSIA, AND SLOVAKIA.

GERMAN IS ALSO A CO-OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH TYROL IN NORTHERN ITALY, AS WELL AS THE OPÓLE AND SILESIA PROVINCES IN SOUTHERN POLAND.

Luxembourg

Population: 600,000
Native speakers population: 2%
Second language population: 68%

Although standard German is widely spoken, the native language of Luxembourg is Luxembourgish, which has similarities to High German.

Say "Moien!" to say hello in Luxembourgish.

THERE ARE 230 MILLION GERMAN SPEAKERS GLOBALLY. IT IS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN 6 COUNTRIES, ALL OF WHICH ARE IN EUROPE: GERMANY, AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND, BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG AND LIECHTENSTEIN.

'ß' = sharp 'S' sound

Switzerland

Population: 8.5 million
Native speakers population: 65%
Second language population: 5%

Swiss German (Schweizerdeutsch) is an Alemannic German dialect and is very different to other German dialects. It is pronounced very differently. It is influenced by French and Italian, since they are also the official languages of Switzerland. It also has some different vocabulary and sentence structures to standard German.

In Switzerland, as well as Liechtenstein, they do not use the Eszett 'ß' character in writing, which is pronounced a sharp 's' sound. Instead, they use 's' or 'ss'. To say hello in Switzerland, say "Grüezi!"



Austria

Population: 9 million
Native speakers population: 93%
Second language population: 6%

Austrian German (Österreichisches Deutsch) is similar in grammar to High German, but it has some unique vocabulary. For example, the word for plum in Hochdeutsch is "Pflaume", while in Austrian German it's "Zwetschge". Vowels are often prolonged, making the accent much softer and more melodic.

You can say "Grüß Gott!" or "Servus" to greet someone in Austria!

A dialect is a particular form of a language which is unique to a specific region or social group.



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GERMAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

USING THE MAP AS A GUIDE, ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS

TEST YOUR
KNOWLEDGE!



1 In which continent are the 6 countries that have German as an official language situated?

.....

2 What is a dialect?

.....

3 Which German dialect is considered 'standard' German?

.....

4 In which provinces in Poland and Italy is German a co-official language?

.....

.....

5 What is the native language of Luxembourg?

.....

6 Which dialect is spoken around the North Sea in Germany?

.....

7 Where is Bayerish spoken?

.....

8 Which country has a very high percentage of people who speak German as their second language?

.....

9 How do you pronounce the 'ß' letter?

.....

- What is this letter called?

.....

10 What is the German name for 'Swiss German'?

.....

11 What type of dialect is Swiss German?

.....

- What other languages is it influenced by?

.....

12 How would you say 'Hello' in Berlin?

.....

- BONUS marks if you can mark on the map whereabouts Berlin is situated.

13 Which countries/areas could you say "Grüß Gott" to say hello?

.....

14 What does German in Switzerland and Liechtenstein have in common?

.....

15 How would you say 'plum' in Austrian German?

.....

16 How does the Austrian accent sound different to standard German?

.....

- Why is this?

.....

17 In which 2 non-European countries is German a national minority language in?

.....



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GERMAN-SPEAKING COUNTRIES COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

ANSWERS- MAP

- 1 In which continent are the 6 countries that have German as an official language situated?

Europe (1 mark)

- 2 What is a dialect?

A dialect is a particular form of a language which is unique to a specific region or social group. (1 mark)

- 3 Which German dialect is considered 'standard' German?

High German. (1 mark)

- 4 In which provinces in Poland and Italy is German a co-official language?

South Tyrol - Northern Italy
Opole and Silesian provinces - Southern Poland
(1 mark for each)

- 5 What is the native language of Luxembourg?

Luxembourgish. (1 mark)

- 6 Which dialect is spoken around the North Sea in Germany?

Low German/Plattdeutsch. (1 mark for either)

- 7 Where is Bayerish spoken?

In the South of Germany/around Munich. (1 mark for either)

- 8 Which country has a very high percentage of people who speak German as their second language?

Luxembourg. (1 mark)

- 9 How do you pronounce the 'ß' letter?

Sharp 'S' sound. (1 mark)

- What is this letter called?

Eszett. (1 mark)

- 10 What is the German name for 'Swiss German'?

Schweizerdeutsch. (1 mark)

- 11 What type of dialect is Swiss German?

An Alemannic German dialect. (1 mark)

- What other languages is it influenced by?

French & Italian. (1 mark for each)

- 12 How would you say 'Hello' in Berlin?

"Juten Tach!" (1 mark)

- BONUS marks if you can mark on the map where Berlin is situated. (1 mark)



- 13 Which countries/areas could you say "Grüß Gott" to say hello?

Munich & Austria. (1 mark for each)

- 14 What does German in Switzerland and Liechtenstein have in common?

They do not use the Eszett 'ß' character in writing, instead they use 's' or ss'. (1 mark)

- 15 How would you say 'plum' in Austrian German?

"Zwetschge" (1 mark)

- 16 How does the Austrian accent sound different to standard German?

The accent is much softer and more melodic. (1 mark)

- Why is this?

Vowels are often prolonged. (1 mark)

- 17 In which 2 non-European countries is German a national minority language in?

Brazil & Namibia. (1 mark for each)

26 TOTAL MARKS



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