GERMAN WORDS THAT WORDS THAT CANNOT BE TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH



FREMDSCHÄMEN



"TO BE EXTERNALLY EMBARRASSED"

This is a feeling of embarrassment or shame for someone else's inappropriate or embarrassing behaviour. For example, somebody making a scene in a restaurant.



"CELEBRATION EVENING"

FEIERABEND

This is a phrase Germans use when they have finished work for the day. It is a daily affirmation of a healthy work-life balance.

KOPFKINO

"HEAD CINEMA"



ERBSENZÄHLER "PEA COUNTER"

This describes somebody who

This is the phenomenon of imagining a very detailed scenario in your head. Such as when you read a book and can picture the scene in your imagination like a film being screened inside your head.



This is like the English expression 'pie in the sky', meaning an unrealistic dream or fantasy.

is pedantic and obsessed with fine details, similar to the English term 'nitpicker'.

FERNWEH "DISTANCE ACHE"

This is the opposite of homesickness, that describes the longing to be somewhere else, to travel far away and see the world.

VERSCHLIMMBESSERN

"TO IMPROVE-WORSEN"

This is when you try to improve something, but actually make it worse.

TREPPENWITZ "STAIRCASE JOKE"



This describes the feeling of when you come up with the perfect comeback or reply after the moment has passed. It reflects the visual idea of reaching the end of a staircase, only to remember that you have forgotten something at the other end.

SCHADENFREUDE "DAMAGE JOY"

This is a well-known German word that is commonly used by English speakers. It describes the feeling of joy we have as a result of someone else's pain.