***"Failure makes smart."***

German proverb

## 1. Germany Discussion

1. What is Germany famous for?
2. What is the capital of Germany? What do you know about that city? Which other important cities or places in Germany do you know about?
3. Have you ever visited Germany? If so, what did you do? If not, where would you like to visit? What would you do there?
4. Would you like to live in Germany? Why or why not? Where is the best place to live in Germany?
5. What do you know about the culture of Germany? Do you know about any cultural events, festivals or other traditions that take place in Germany?
6. What do you think about German food? Have you ever tried it? What are the best dishes?
7. What do you know about the music of Germany? How about TV shows or films? What are the best TV shows, films or music from Germany?
8. Which sports is Germany known for? Which sports is Germany good at?

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## 2. Historical German People

- **Martin Luther** – *born in 1483 in Eisleben, and having been ordained as a Catholic priest, Luther was a key figure in the Protestant Reformation. According to Luther, the only source of divine authority was in the Bible (the word of God), and not from the Pope (the head of the Catholic Church). His violent views against Jewish people are believed to have planted the seeds of antisemitism in society that would eventually lead to the horrors of the Nazi Holocaust centuries later.*
- **Ludwig van Beethoven** – *born in 1770 in Bonn, Beethoven is one of the most famous classical composers in history. What made Beethoven's achievements even more remarkable was that he became increasingly deaf during his career. The anthem of the European Union is Beethoven's Ode to Joy.*
- **Otto von Bismarck** – *born in 1815 in Prussia, Bismarck is considered the mastermind of German unification in 1871. Following unification, Bismarck became Germany's first chancellor, using his diplomatic genius and the rapid economic growth under his leadership to position the new state as a European power.*
- **Karl Marx** – *born in 1818 Trier in Prussia, Marx is known as the founder of the economic theory of communism, a critique of the capitalism of the Industrial Revolution. According to Marx, the working-class majority were oppressed by the ruling class minority; the only way to fix this injustice would be revolution. Marx's theories inspired countless revolutions across the world, which in turn divided the world between the two dominant powers during the Cold War.*
- **Carl Benz** - *born in 1844 in Muhlburg, Benz was an inventor and engineer whose Motorwagen, a three-wheeled bench with an engine, was the first automobile in the world to be put into production, an act that revolutionised the world. His company, Benz & Cie, merged with Daimler Motoren Gesellschaft to form Daimler-Benz, the company that today produces the famous Mercedes-Benz line of cars.*
- **Albert Einstein** – *born in 1879 in Ulm, Einstein is the most famous scientist in history. He is most famous for his theory of relativity, which explains the relationship between time and space. As a person of Jewish origin, Einstein objected to the policies of Hitler's rule and settled in the United States in 1933. Einstein, along with other scientists, warned the US that Germany was researching nuclear weapons, although Einstein himself was opposed to using this kind of science for weapons.*

**The people of Germany speaking activity**

1. Which of these people did you already know about?
2. Which of these people had the most impressive achievements? Do you disagree with what any of these people did?
3. Who are some other important Germans, past or present, that you know about? Why are they important?
4. Do you know about any famous actors, artists or sports stars from Germany?
5. What do you think about people from Germany? Have you ever met any? How were they? (If you are from Germany, how would you describe the people from your country?)
6. What are some stereotypes of Germans?

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## 3. Video: The Berlin Wall

You are going to watch a video by TED Ed called "The rise and fall of the Berlin Wall."

***Watch the video here: https://yourenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-germany/***

**While you watch the video, answer the following questions:**

**Multiple choice**

1. How long did it take to complete the construction of the Berlin Wall?
   *a) 5 years* *b) 10 years* *c) 20 years*
2. What did Western powers promote after World War 2?
   *a) liberalism* *b) fascism* *c) communism*
3. What were East Germans forbidden from doing?
   *a) emigrating* *b) working* *c) travelling on buses*
4. How did the Soviet Union portray West Germany?
   *a) as capitalists* *b) as fascists* *c) as socialists*

**Sentence completion**

5. The United States and its allies funded West Germany's _____.
6. The Stasi, East Germany's secret police, _____ its citizens for any sign of subversion.
7. Many of the 3.5 million people who left East Germany were _____.
8. East German guards were ordered to _____ anyone seen in the Death Strip.

**Short answer**

9. Who defected while abroad to escape East Germany?
10. What did some people dig to escape East Germany?
11. What did the Berlin Wall become a global symbol of?
12. What did mass demonstrations at the end of the 1980s call for?

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## 4. Germany Conversation Questions

1. What do you think are the main differences between Germany and your country? (If you are from Germany, which countries are most similar and different to yours?)
2. Do you know any German words or sayings?
3. What did Germany give to the world?
4. What are some important events from Germany's history?
5. How important is Germany in the world?
6. How important will Germany be in the future?
7. What do you know about the government or politics of Germany? (If you are from Germany, what do you think about your government?)
8. What kind of relationship with Germany does your country have? (If you are from Germany, which countries does Germany have good and bad relations with?)

## 5. Germany Writing Task

Write about your opinion of Germany. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- What Germany is most famous for.
- Some important events in Germany's history.
- What you know about the culture of Germany and its people.

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