The AhaBulb Party Game

STUFF EVERY TRAVELER SHOULD SAY IN GERMAN

How to play (30 seconds)

1. The reader reads a card and its three answers out loud.
2. Everyone says "One, two, three, Goldilocks!" and holds up 1, 2, or 3 fingers.
3. The reader flips the card and reads the answer and the Why.
4. Everyone who was right takes a point.
5. The reader reads the joke with a straight face. Anyone laughs or groans? The reader takes a point. Nobody got it right? The reader takes a point.
6. Pass the deck left. Most points when the points run out wins.

What you need

These cards and the point tokens on the last two pages. No tokens? Use coins, buttons, pebbles, or marshmallows. 3 to 10 players, ages 8 and up.

Expert rule: Bet It

Before the reader flips the card, you may put one of your points on your answer. Right: take your normal point plus one extra. Wrong: your bet goes back to the pile. That's it.

Printing

Print single-sided, on cardstock if you have it. Cut on the dashed lines. Each card is a 3.5 x 5 inch index card. The answer half is upside down on purpose, so the table can't peek.

Cards 1 to 49 of 49. More cards and the free daily online game at sesk.info. Built 2026-10-14.

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'Good morning' in German?

A Guten Abend

B Guten Morgen

C Gute Nacht

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Guten Morgen

WHY Guten Morgen is used when you first see someone in the morning. Switch to Guten Tag later in the day and Guten Abend in the evening.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the man run around his bed? To catch up on his sleep!

SESK.INFO #5249

LANGUAGES

How do you say a polite 'Hello' or 'Good day' to a stranger in German?

A Guten Tag

B Gute Nacht

C Auf Wiedersehen

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Guten Tag

WHY Guten Tag is the standard polite daytime greeting. Gute Nacht is only for bedtime and Auf Wiedersehen means goodbye. In Austria and southern Germany you will also hear Grüß Gott.

STRAIGHT FACE
My boss told me to have a good day, so I left and went to the beach.

SESK.INFO #5248

LANGUAGES

Which German word is a casual 'Bye!' for friends?

A Tschüss

B Entschuldigung

C Bitteschön

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Tschüss

WHY Tschüss is the everyday casual goodbye. Use Auf Wiedersehen with strangers and officials. In Bavaria and Austria, Servus is a casual hi or bye.

STRAIGHT FACE
How did the hamburger say bye to his side dish? Later, tots!

SESK.INFO #5251

LANGUAGES

How do you politely say 'Goodbye' to a shopkeeper in German?

A Guten Appetit

B Guten Morgen

C Auf Wiedersehen

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Auf Wiedersehen

WHY Auf Wiedersehen literally means 'until we see each other again'. It is the polite goodbye. Tschüss is the casual version for friends.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did the buffalo say when his son left for college? Bison.

SESK.INFO #5250

LANGUAGES

Which German word means both 'please' and 'you're welcome'?

A Danke

B Bitte

C Entschuldigung

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Entschuldigung

WHY Entschuldigung covers both 'excuse me' to get attention and 'sorry' after bumping someone. It is the one polite word every traveler needs.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did the whale say when he bumped into the shark? Sorry! I didn't do it on porpoise.

SESK.INFO #5254

LANGUAGES

Which phrase means 'Thank you very much' in German?

A Bitte schön

B Gute Nacht

C Danke schön

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Danke schön

WHY Danke schön and Danke sehr both add warmth to a plain Danke. Bitte schön is what you say back, so do not mix them up.

STRAIGHT FACE
I bought the newlyweds an elephant for their room. They said, Thank you. I said, Don't mention it.

SESK.INFO #5253

LANGUAGES

How do you politely get a stranger's attention, like 'Excuse me'?

A Entschuldigung

B Tschüss

C Gesundheit

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Bitte

WHY Bitte works for 'please' when you ask and 'you're welcome' after someone thanks you. It can also mean 'here you are' when handing something over.

STRAIGHT FACE
I learned one German word that means please, you're welcome and here you go. Bitte, my vocabulary just tripled.

SESK.INFO #5252

LANGUAGES

You did not hear someone. How do you say 'Pardon?' in German?

A Wie geht's?

B Wie bitte?

C Wie viel?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Wie bitte?

WHY Wie bitte? asks someone to repeat what they said. Wie geht's? means how are you, and Wie viel? means how much.

STRAIGHT FACE
Knock knock. Who's there? Yukon. Yukon who? Yukon say that again!

SESK.INFO #5255

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'I don't understand' in German?

- **A** Ich weiß nicht.
- **B** Ich habe Hunger.
- **C** Ich verstehe nicht.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Ich verstehe nicht.

WHY Ich verstehe nicht means you don't understand the words. Ich weiß nicht means 'I don't know', which is a different problem.

STRAIGHT FACE
My German teacher said Ich verstehe nicht. I said that is the first sentence I understood.

SESK.INFO #5256

LANGUAGES

How do you politely ask a stranger 'Do you speak English?' in German?

- **A** Sprechen Sie Englisch?
- **B** Sprechen Sie Deutsch?
- **C** Sprechen Sie Französisch?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Sprechen Sie Englisch?

WHY Sprechen Sie Englisch? uses the polite Sie form. The other two choices ask whether someone speaks German or French. Swap in any language name and the sentence still works.

STRAIGHT FACE
Where does success come before work? In the dictionary!

SESK.INFO #5257

LANGUAGES

What do you say when you meet someone: 'Nice to meet you'?

- **A** Tut mir leid.
- **B** Freut mich.
- **C** Gute Besserung.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Freut mich.

WHY Freut mich, short for Es freut mich, means 'it pleases me'. Tut mir leid means 'I'm sorry' and Gute Besserung means 'get well soon'.

STRAIGHT FACE
How do poets say hello? Hey, haven't we metaphor?

SESK.INFO #5258

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'My name is Anna' in German?

- **A** Ich habe Anna.
- **B** Ich mag Anna.
- **C** Ich heiße Anna.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Ich heiße Anna.

WHY Ich heiße literally means 'I am called'. Ich habe means 'I have' and Ich mag means 'I like', so those sentences are about something else.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a magician who lost their magic? Ian.

SESK.INFO #5259

LANGUAGES

How do you politely ask an older stranger 'How are you?' in German?

A Wie geht es Ihnen?

B Wie geht's dir?

C Wie heißen Sie?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Wie geht es Ihnen?

WHY Wie geht es Ihnen? uses Ihnen, the polite you. Wie geht's dir? is for friends and Wie heißen Sie? asks for a name.

STRAIGHT FACE
Knock knock. Who's there? Hawaii. Hawaii who? I'm fine, Hawaii you?

SESK.INFO #5260

LANGUAGES

Which German word for 'you' should you use with a shop clerk you just met?

A du

B Sie

C ihr

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Sie

WHY Sie, always capitalized, is the polite you for adults you do not know well. Du is for family, friends and children.

STRAIGHT FACE
Knock knock. Who's there? To. To who? Don't you mean to whom?

SESK.INFO #5261

LANGUAGES

How do you politely ask a stranger 'Where are you from?' in German?

A Wohin gehen Sie?

B Wer sind Sie?

C Woher kommen Sie?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Woher kommen Sie?

WHY Woher means 'from where' and kommen means 'come'. Wohin gehen Sie asks where you are going, and Wer sind Sie asks who you are.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did E.T.'s mother say to him when he got home? Where on Earth have you been?

SESK.INFO #5262

LANGUAGES

How do you say the number 21 in German?

A einundzwanzig

B zweiundzwanzig

C einunddreißig

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A einundzwanzig

WHY German says the ones digit first: ein-und-zwanzig, literally 'one and twenty'. Zweiundzwanzig is 22 and einunddreißig is 31.

STRAIGHT FACE
The numbers 19 and 20 got into a fight. 21.

SESK.INFO #5263

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'Where is the train station?' in German?

A Wo ist der Flughafen?

B Wo ist der Bahnhof?

C Wo ist die Haltestelle?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Wo ist der Bahnhof?

WHY Wo ist means 'where is' and Bahnhof is the train station. The wrong choices ask for the airport (Flughafen) and a bus or tram stop (Haltestelle).

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call a train carrying bubblegum? A chew-chew train.

SESK.INFO #5267

LANGUAGES

A waiter says 'Das macht zwanzig Euro.' What does he mean?

A That comes to twenty euros.

B That is a twenty-euro discount.

C Your tip should be twenty euros.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A That comes to twenty euros.

WHY When adding up a bill, macht means 'comes to', just like zwei plus zwei macht vier. The waiter is telling you the total is twenty euros.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why was the equal sign so humble? Because it wasn't greater than or less than anyone else.

SESK.INFO #5266

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'How much does this cost?' in German?

A Was ist das?

B Wo ist das?

C Was kostet das?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Was kostet das?

WHY Was kostet das? literally asks 'what costs that?'. Was ist das? means what is that, and Wo ist das? means where is that.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the boy put his money in the freezer? He wanted cold, hard cash.

SESK.INFO #5265

LANGUAGES

What number is 'dreißig' in German?

A 13

B 30

C 3

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B 30

WHY Dreißig is 30 and dreizehn is 13. Most German tens end in -zig, like zwanzig and vierzig, but thirty is spelled with ß: dreißig.

STRAIGHT FACE
How do you make seven an even number? Just remove the s.

SESK.INFO #5264

LANGUAGES

In German directions, what does 'links' mean?

- A right
- B straight ahead
- C left

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C left

WHY Links means left and rechts means right. A handy example: 'An der nächsten Ampel links abbiegen' means turn left at the next traffic light.

STRAIGHT FACE
Do you use your right hand to stir your coffee? I use a spoon.

SESK.INFO #5268

LANGUAGES

What does 'geradeaus' mean when someone gives you directions in German?

- A straight ahead
- B turn around
- C turn left

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A straight ahead

WHY Geradeaus means straight ahead. People often say 'Gehen Sie geradeaus' to tell you to keep walking forward.

STRAIGHT FACE
Two men meet on opposite sides of a river. One shouts to the other, I need you to help me to get to the other side! The other guy shouts, You are on the other side!

SESK.INFO #5269

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'Where is the bathroom?' in German?

- A Wo ist die Kasse?
- B Wo ist die Toilette?
- C Wo ist der Ausgang?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Wo ist die Toilette?

WHY Toilette is the normal word for restroom in German. Kasse is the cash register or checkout and Ausgang is the exit.

STRAIGHT FACE
Knock knock. Who's there? Police. Police who? Police let me in, I have to pee!

SESK.INFO #5270

LANGUAGES

A restroom door says 'Herren'. Who is it for?

- A Women
- B Staff only
- C Men

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Men

WHY Herren is the plural of Herr, meaning gentleman, so it marks the men's restroom. The women's door says Damen, from Dame, meaning lady.

STRAIGHT FACE
If you're American when you go in the bathroom and American when you come out, what are you in the bathroom? European.

SESK.INFO #5271

LANGUAGES

How do you ask for 'A table for two, please' in German?

- **A** Einen Tisch für zwei, bitte.
- **B** Eine Rechnung für zwei, bitte.
- **C** Ein Zimmer für zwei, bitte.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Einen Tisch für zwei, bitte.

WHY Tisch means table and für zwei means for two. The wrong choices ask for a bill or a hotel room instead.

STRAIGHT FACE
Knock knock. Who's there? Watts. Watts who? Watts for dinner? I'm hungry.

SESK.INFO #5272

LANGUAGES

Which phrase politely orders 'I would like a coffee' in German?

- **A** Ich habe einen Kaffee.
- **B** Ich hätte gern einen Kaffee.
- **C** Ich mache einen Kaffee.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Ich hätte gern einen Kaffee.

WHY Ich hätte gern is the polite way to order, like 'I would like'. Ich habe means 'I have' and Ich mache means 'I am making', so neither places an order.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do you call sad coffee? Despresso.

SESK.INFO #5273

LANGUAGES

What do you ask for to see the menu in a German restaurant?

- **A** die Fahrkarte
- **B** die Rechnung
- **C** die Speisekarte

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C die Speisekarte

WHY Die Speisekarte is the menu, and many people just say die Karte. Die Fahrkarte is a transit ticket and die Rechnung is the bill.

STRAIGHT FACE
Hear about the new restaurant called Karma? There's no menu. You get what you deserve.

SESK.INFO #5274

LANGUAGES

How do you ask a waiter for the check in German?

- **A** Die Rechnung, bitte.
- **B** Die Speisekarte, bitte.
- **C** Das Wasser, bitte.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Die Rechnung, bitte.

WHY Die Rechnung is the bill. Duden even lists 'die Rechnung, bitte!' as the typical request. The wrong choices ask for a menu or water.

STRAIGHT FACE
Waiter, this food tastes kind of funny. Then why aren't you laughing?

SESK.INFO #5275

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'Can I pay by card?' in German?

- **A** Kann ich hier parken?
- **B** Kann ich mit Karte zahlen?
- **C** Kann ich die Karte sehen?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Kann ich mit Karte zahlen?

WHY Zahlen means to pay and mit Karte means by card. Parken is to park and die Karte sehen is to see the menu.

STRAIGHT FACE
How do you stop a bull from charging? Cancel its credit card.

SESK.INFO #5276

LANGUAGES

You hand over 20 euros for a 17 euro bill and say 'Stimmt so.' What do you mean?

- **A** I want a receipt.
- **B** The bill is wrong.
- **C** Keep the change.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Keep the change.

WHY Stimmt so means 'that's right as it is'. Servers hear it as 'keep the change', which becomes the tip (Trinkgeld). It is the standard way to round up.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why don't traffic lights ever go swimming? Because they take too long to change!

SESK.INFO #5277

LANGUAGES

What do Germans often say before a meal begins?

- **A** Guten Appetit!
- **B** Gute Reise!
- **C** Gesundheit!

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Guten Appetit!

WHY Guten Appetit means enjoy your meal, just like the French bon appétit. Gute Reise is said to travelers and Gesundheit follows a sneeze.

STRAIGHT FACE
My German host said Guten Appetit, and my stomach answered Danke before I could.

SESK.INFO #5278

LANGUAGES

How do you ask a hotel 'Do you have a room available?' in German?

- **A** Haben Sie einen Tisch frei?
- **B** Haben Sie ein Zimmer frei?
- **C** Haben Sie ein Taxi frei?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Haben Sie ein Zimmer frei?

WHY Zimmer is room and frei means free or available. Duden even lists 'Zimmer frei' as the sign for a vacancy. The wrong choices ask for a table or a taxi.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do witches ask for at hotels? Broom service.

SESK.INFO #5279

LANGUAGES

A German hotel advertises 'Frühstück inklusive'. What is included?

- **A** Dinner
- **B** Parking
- **C** Breakfast

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Breakfast

WHY Frühstück is breakfast, the meal eaten in the morning. Inklusive means included, so breakfast is part of the price.

STRAIGHT FACE
What do they serve for breakfast on flights? Plane bagels.

SESK.INFO #5280

LANGUAGES

At the hotel desk you ask for your 'Schlüssel'. What do you want?

- **A** Your key
- **B** Your bill
- **C** Your suitcase

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Your key

WHY Der Schlüssel is the key. Duden defines it as the object that opens and closes a lock. The bill is die Rechnung and a suitcase is der Koffer.

STRAIGHT FACE
Knock knock. Who's there? Mikey. Mikey who? Mikey doesn't fit through the keyhole!

SESK.INFO #5281

LANGUAGES

How do you ask for 'A ticket to Berlin, please' in German?

- **A** Eine Speisekarte nach Berlin, bitte.
- **B** Eine Fahrkarte nach Berlin, bitte.
- **C** Einen Fahrplan nach Berlin, bitte.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Eine Fahrkarte nach Berlin, bitte.

WHY Fahrkarte is a travel ticket and nach means to. A Speisekarte is a menu and a Fahrplan is a timetable. In Switzerland a ticket is usually called a Billett.

STRAIGHT FACE
How many conductors does it take to change a light bulb? Only one, but to no avail. He first punches a hole in the new bulb.

SESK.INFO #5282

LANGUAGES

A German station announcement says 'Gleis 7'. What does that number tell you?

- **A** Which seat to take
- **B** Which ticket price you paid
- **C** Which track your train leaves from

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Which track your train leaves from

WHY Gleis means track. German and Swiss stations announce each train by its track number, so Gleis 7 tells you where to wait.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why is the railroad angry? Because people are always crossing it!

SESK.INFO #5283

LANGUAGES

What do you shout in German to get help in an emergency?

A Halt!
B Hilfe!
C Hallo!

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Hilfe!

WHY Hilfe! means help. Halt! means stop and Hallo! is only hello, so Hilfe is the word for an emergency.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did the helpless T cell say when facing infection? Is there antibody out there?

SESK.INFO #5285

LANGUAGES

How do you say 'I need a doctor' in German?

A Ich brauche einen Apotheker.
B Ich brauche einen Koffer.
C Ich brauche einen Arzt.

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Ich brauche einen Arzt.

WHY Arzt means doctor. An Apotheker works in a pharmacy and a Koffer is a suitcase.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the doctor lose his temper? Because he didn't have any patients!

SESK.INFO #5286

LANGUAGES

You have a headache in Germany. Which shop sign are you looking for?

A Apotheke
B Bäckerei
C Buchhandlung

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Apotheke

WHY Apotheke is a pharmacy, a shop that sells medicine. Bäckerei is a bakery and Buchhandlung is a bookshop.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the doctor tell the nurses to be quiet when walking past the medicine cabinet? So they don't wake the sleeping pills.

SESK.INFO #5287

LANGUAGES

Which German word means 'police'?

A Feuerwehr
B Polizei
C Krankenwagen

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Polizei

WHY Die Polizei is the police. Die Feuerwehr is the fire department and der Krankenwagen is the ambulance.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did the policeman say to his hungry stomach? Freeze. You're under a vest.

SESK.INFO #5288

LANGUAGES

How do you ask 'What time is it?' in German?

A Wie viel kostet es?

B Wie alt ist es?

C Wie spät ist es?

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Wie spät ist es?

WHY Wie spät ist es? literally asks 'how late is it?'. Wie viel Uhr ist es? means the same. Wie viel kostet es asks the price and Wie alt ist es asks the age.

SESK.INFO #5289

LANGUAGES

Which day of the week is 'Mittwoch'?

A Wednesday

B Monday

C Friday

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Wednesday

WHY Mittwoch is Wednesday. It comes from Old High German for 'middle of the week', which is exactly where it sits.

STRAIGHT FACE
Why did the employee at the calendar factory get fired? She kept taking days off.

SESK.INFO #5290

LANGUAGES

What does the sign 'Ausgang' mean?

A Entrance

B Exit

C Parking

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B Exit

WHY Ausgang means exit. It is the door or opening through which you leave a building. The entrance is Eingang.

STRAIGHT FACE
Knock knock. Who's there? Through. Through who? Through the door once you open it up, silly!

SESK.INFO #5291

LANGUAGES

Which German sign marks the entrance?

A Ausgang

B Notausgang

C Eingang

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Eingang

WHY Eingang means entrance, the door where you go in. Ausgang is the exit and Notausgang is the emergency exit.

STRAIGHT FACE
I took the Eingang and ended up inside, which proves the sign knew what it was doing.

SESK.INFO #5292

LANGUAGES

What does 'geschlossen' on a shop door mean?

- **A** open
- **B** closed
- **C** sale

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B closed

WHY Geschlossen means closed or shut. The opposite is geöffnet, which Duden defines simply as offen.

STRAIGHT FACE
Knock knock. Who's there? Isadora. Isadora who? Isadora open or what?

SESK.INFO #5294

LANGUAGES

What does a green sign saying 'Notausgang' mark?

- **A** An emergency exit
- **B** The main entrance
- **C** A coat room

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A An emergency exit

WHY Not means emergency and Ausgang means exit. Never block a Notausgang, because it is for danger such as fire.

STRAIGHT FACE
Knock knock. Who's there? Will. Will who? Will you open the door?

SESK.INFO #5293

LANGUAGES

A sign says 'Rauchen verboten'. What does it mean?

- **A** Smoking is forbidden
- **B** Smoking is allowed
- **C** Smoking area

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

A Smoking is forbidden

WHY Verboten means forbidden or prohibited. Wiktionary even gives 'Rauchen verboten' as 'Do not smoke!'. Obey it and you stay out of trouble.

STRAIGHT FACE
How do billboards talk to one another? With sign language.

SESK.INFO #5296

LANGUAGES

A German door has a sign saying 'Ziehen'. What should you do?

- **A** Push it
- **B** Knock first
- **C** Pull it

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

C Pull it

WHY Ziehen means to pull. The opposite sign is Drücken, which means push. Keep both in mind and you will never bump into glass again.

STRAIGHT FACE
What did the German door say to the pushy visitor? Ziehen, please, I'm not that kind of door.

SESK.INFO #5295

LANGUAGES

A sign in a German store says 'Sonderangebot'. What is for sale?

- **A** A secret menu
- **B** A special bargain
- **C** A special tour

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

B A special bargain

WHY Sonderangebot is a special offer or bargain. Sonder means special and Angebot means offer.

STRAIGHT FACE
Where can you buy soup in bulk? The stock market.

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AhaBulb POINT

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