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10 Ways that German and English are similar

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Abstract: In order to ensure the implementation of decisions on measures to further improve the system of learning foreign languages, a lot of significant work is being done in our country. According to the head of state , in order for each industry owner to master his field an compete globally, it is necessary to able to understand and speak a foreign language fluently. This article explores similar methods of English and German for learners. In this article 10 ways of similar aspects in English and German were written. Furthermore, the modern languages have both learned words from Latin, Greek and French. It is also written about the similarity of many words, the similarity of grammatical rules.

They are short and limited in size, rich in content written in prose in form.

Keywords: Similarity, speaker, Germanic branch, same alphabet, extremely, global languages, Arabic numbering systems, grammatical rules, employment prospects.

Introduction

Learning a new language can seem like a daunting task, especially as people have a tendency to focus on the differences between the language(s) they currently speak and the one they are interested in acquiring. However, for English speakers interested in learning German, there are actually a lot of similarities. As a result, whether you are a native English speaker or someone who has picked it up as a second language, the process of learning German is made slightly easier.

1. English is a Germanic language

Perhaps the most crucial point to make is that English is a language which originally derived from West Germanic more than 2,000 years ago. Indeed, both the German and English languages are considered to be members of the Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family, meaning they are still closely related today.

Given their shared origins, it should come as little surprise to learn there are strong resemblances between them. It is estimated that more than a third of English non-technical lexicons are of Germanic origin, as are many English words. Furthermore, the modern languages have both learned words from Latin, Greek and French.

German Dialects : An Origin Story

2. The two languages use the same alphabet

One of the most obvious similarities between German and English is the fact that both languages utilise the same 26 letters which form the <u>Latin</u> alphabet. This is a major plus point, as it makes it easy for English speakers to start writing in the German language straight away.

With the exception of learning rules regarding the <u>additional umlauted letters</u> (\ddot{a} , \ddot{o} and \ddot{u}) and the Eszett or sharp S (β), this transition is fairly simple. Certainly, it represents an advantage over an English speaker trying to learn a language like Mandarin, <u>Arabic</u> or Japanese, which utilise completely different writing systems.

3. Several German words are used in the English language

If you are able to <u>speak English</u>, chances are you already know some German words! The English language has borrowed a number of words from German and some of them are used fairly regularly. For example, the word 'rucksack' to describe a bag carried on a person's back, or the word 'angst', used in psychology to describe anxiety.

The use of German words in English is even more common when talking about food and drink. The word 'spritzer' (apple) is often used when talking about alcohol, while 'pretzel', 'strudel' and '<u>bratwurst</u>' are all German too. Meanwhile, English has also borrowed the



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word 'delicatessen' to describe stores selling pre-prepared foods.

4. Several English words are used in the German language

Over the years, the German language has also borrowed a number of English words too. This is especially obvious in the worlds of technology, music, advertising and fashion, where English speakers should encounter a lot of familiar words and phrases while making the transition to German.

For instance, the words 'Computer', 'Designer', 'Album', 'Image' and 'Laser' have all been adopted from English, and English words are often borrowed when a craze starts outside of <u>German-speaking areas</u>. Examples of this include 'Skateboarding' and 'Aerobics', which are both recognised by German speakers. **5. Many other words sound extremely**

similar

In addition to the vast number of words which are shared between the two languages, German and English also feature many words that sound extremely similar. This is a major plus point when it comes to <u>learning German</u> from a starting point of understanding English, as it is often possible to guess what some words mean. For example, the German word for 'house' is 'Haus', the German word for 'university' is 'Universität' and the German word for 'camera' is 'Kamera'. For an English speaker, it would be fairly easy to ascertain that the German sentence "Ich trinke Wasser" means "I drink water," even if they had never encountered these German words before.

6. German and English words often follow the same grammatical rules

For English speakers who are attempting to <u>learn German</u>, one of the features they will encounter is a similarity in grammatical rules. Perhaps the best example of this is with the way verbs change based on their tense and this can be demonstrated with the verb 'to drink', which is 'trinken' in German.

The English word changes based on tense, from 'drink' to 'drank' to 'drunk'. In German, for the same three tenses, you use the words 'trinkt', 'trank' and 'getrunken' and the same basic rule applies to most other verbs too. Therefore, an English speaker can often have a pretty good idea of <u>German verb patterns</u> from the very beginning.

7. Both languages use Arabic numbering systems

Another advantage of learning German as an English speaker is that the two languages use the same <u>Arabic</u> numerals and numbering system. Much like in English, numbers are all comprised of sequences of the digits 0-9 and while these numerals have different names in German, the follow the same core principles.

This can perhaps be best observed by looking at the numbers from 10 to 20.

English: ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty.

German: zehn, elf, zwoelf, dreizehn, vierzehn, fünfzehn, sechzehn, siebzehn, achtzehn, neunzehn, zwanzig.

As you can see, the suffix 'teen' is replaced by 'zehn', but the basic pattern stays the same.

8. German and English are both popular global languages

English is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, but this status can sometimes hinder English speakers when it comes to their desire to <u>learn a second</u> <u>language</u>, especially if that language is deemed to have a lower level of global importance.

However, the German language is still thriving and is the single most widely spoken language in the European Union. It has official language status in Germany, <u>Austria</u>, Switzerland, Belgium and various other countries, and is a recognised minority language in countries as diverse as <u>Brazil</u>, Kazakhstan, Namibia and Denmark.

9. Both languages can boost your employment prospects

A further similarity between German and English is their importance when it comes to <u>employment</u>. Like English, German is recognised as a major business language and is widely used in political discussions as well. This importance means there is never a shortage of demand for translators able to speak both languages.



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Moreover, both languages can open up the possibility of working overseas in specific fields. Did you know, for example, that German is the second most widely utilised language in the field of science? Meanwhile, those who enjoy writing will be interested to know that one tenth of all <u>books published globally are written in German.</u>

10. You can learn both languages with Lingoda!

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Our teachers are qualified native speakers and our classes are flexible, meaning you can take as many or as few as you want, at any time of day. All of our lessons are structured in accordance with the<u>Common European</u> <u>Framework of Reference for Languages</u> and students are able to earn globally recognised certificates as they progress.

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