Language of the month: German

Acing Your Language Class
Tips & best practices

"Lebe, wie du, wenn du stirbst, wünschen wirst, gelebt zu haben."
"Live like, when you die, you will wish to have lived."

Student Spotlight
Meet the German Language Link leaders

Eating Authentically in Boston
Restaurant recommendations and recipes to try

Add to Your Playlist and Watchlist
Songs and movies

Crosswords and Novels

ISSUE NO. 2
Learn German
WITH THE ERC!

The ERC offers Language Link for German! Language Link hosts several informal, half-hour discussions over Zoom each week. Sessions are led by a native speaker and are offered at three different levels: novice, intermediate, and advanced. Sign up or learn more here.
Anki is a free flashcard app that allows you to make your own cards, in addition to accessing pre-made decks. The algorithm saves you time by prioritizing cards that you find to be challenging. The app is offered in multiple languages, including German.

Learn more [here](#).
Spotlight
THE ERC'S GERMAN LANGUAGE LINK LEADERS!

Seynedhee Avenie
(CAS '24, PAR '24)
Seynedhee Avenie is an undergraduate student (CAS '24, PAR '24) and a Language Link Leader for both German and French. When she's not leading discussions, you can find her visiting museums or watching Netflix while eating popcorn.

Karl Brynnel
(SAR PhD Student)
Karl Brynnel is a 3rd year Doctor of Physical Therapy Student (SAR) and a German Language Link Leader. Outside of work and academics, Karl enjoys playing soccer, ping pong, and learning new languages.
Q \& A

A CONVERSATION WITH OUR GERMAN LANGUAGE LINK LEADERS

Q: What’s being a Language Link leader like?

Seynedhee: Being a Language Link leader is really fun and gratifying. It's just having discussions with other students who are learning a language or who know the language proficiently as well. I feel as if it's super different from being a tutor because it's a 30-minute discussion where you learn from each other mutually. You talk about a lot of different topics, like French cinema and where you want to travel in Germany.

Karl: It's just been honestly a fun experience. I just get to socialize with people in a laid back fashion in a German language that I really enjoy.

Q: What’s one of your favorite language study tips?

Seynedhee: Watch movies in that language. Watch movies that you like—that you’ve already seen—so you know the plot. Studying abroad is a great way to immerse yourself too, but if you can't because of COVID, come to Language Link!

Karl: Get as much exposure as possible, whether that takes the form of reading, watching YouTube videos, or finding people to talk to. Get as much into your system as possible.

Q: What’s your favorite aspect of German culture?

Seynedhee: I really like that they're great thinkers. I really like leisure/cultural activities: such as their films, books, and plays. During my three years of French High school, I was enrolled in an intensive German curriculum named Abibac. In this program I took the same advanced literature and history classes as high school students in Germany. Through these classes I developed my knowledge and interest for German writers through some of their timeless books and plays such as “Der Besuch der alten Dame” from Friedrich Dürrenmatt or “Die Verwandlung” Franz Kafka. I highly recommend both of these works. They are chilling representations of yesterday and today's worlds.

Karl: I like that, while they follow rules all the time, they find ways to bend the rules if they benefit someone else. It’s this kind of understanding that you don’t tell the people in charge, but you keep it on the down low when what you’re doing will help someone else.
Celebrate

NIKOLAUSTAG
(ST. NICHOLAS DAY)

Nikolaustag or St. Nicholas Day is celebrated annually on December 6th. While it is not an official holiday it is widely celebrated especially by children who put their shoes outside the door the night before so that Nikolaus can fill them with treats for the well-behaved children.
FEATURED DISH:
LEBKUCHEN "GINGERBREAD"

A quintessential sweet treat throughout all of Germany during the Christmas season, Lebkuchen is one of the most popular and beloved of all German holiday confections. There are a variety of German Lebkuchen, each distinguished by slight alterations in ingredients, shapes, sizes, flavors, and most especially the amount of nuts used (daringgourmet.com).

Access the recipe!
Other Recipes to Check Out

Gemüsesuppe
This German soup features suppengrün, or soup vegetables, like carrots, leeks, celery roots, and parsley. In Germany, you can buy a bundle of these soup vegetables, but you can find them individually too. Learn how to make gemüsesuppe here.

Suppengrün
Suppengrün is the foundation for many classic German flavors. Learn how to make suppengrün here.

Brezen
Brezen or German pretzels, are soft pretzels that are crispy on the outside. Find the authentic recipe here.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS
IF YOU'RE TRAVELING TO GERMANY, SEYNEDHEE RECOMMENDS VISITING GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKETS. HER FAVORITE THINGS TO GET FROM THE MARKETS ARE BREZEN, CHOKOKÜSSE (CHOCOLATE), AND HOT APPLE CIDER.
Eating Authentically

Craving authentic German food but not in the mood to cook? No worries! Check out these restaurants in and around the Boston area for some authentic German food.

- **Karl's Sausage** *(Peabody)*
  A combined butcher shop and German shop/restaurant

- **Bronwyn** *(Somerville)*
  The chef is German, so the food is particularly authentic!
Watchlist

**Good Bye, Lenin!**
A tragicomedy that follows a young man who tries to convince his mother, who has just come out of a coma, that the Berlin Wall hasn't fallen.

**Der Untergang**
Historical war drama covering the final days of Hitler’s rule in Berlin in 1945

**Nowitzki. Der Perfekte Wurf**
A documentary about German NBA player, Dirk Nowitzki

**Traumschiff Surprise: Periode 1**
A Star Trek spoof/comedy
Literature

If You're an Intermediate or Advanced Learner

Check out *Ruhm* by Daniel Kehlmann, a novel of loosely connected stories about technology, celebrities, and alienation.

Available through BU here.

If You're Feeling Festive

Read more about Nikolaus and Lebkuchen (p. 300-305) in The Oxford Companion to *Sugar and Sweets*.

Available through BU here.
Playlist

PETER FOX (ALTERNATIVE HIP-HOP)
CRO (RAP/POP)
DIE TOTEN HOSEN (90S PUNK ROCK)
KITSCHKRIEG (HIP-HOP/RAP)
KRAFTWERK (70S ELECTRONIC MUSIC)
NINA HAGEN (EARLY PUNK ROCK)
HERBERT GRÖNEMEYER (SOFT ROCK)
Crosswords

WE RECOMMEND THESE CROSSWORDS TO HELP YOU INTEGRATE GERMAN LANGUAGE LEARNING INTO YOUR DAILY ROUTINE.

- Crossword with 3 difficulties
- Daily Crossword
- German Crossword App available on Google Play

Did You Know? Have you ever looked at German writing and been surprised at all the capitalization? In German, all nouns are capitalized—no exceptions (The Culture Trip).