



Transcript English for "European Humour"

Hello, this is Christine from Mindmap your German, and you can see it. Today's mind map is about humour. We are talking about European humour. Of course, hopefully, you will understand that I could not choose all the European countries that exist. I have limited myself to five countries, that is Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Spain and France. These are the languages I speak, and then I thought it would be a good idea to choose exactly those countries.

We'll start with Germany. It is always said that Germany is a humourless country. Is this really the case? I don't think so. I think Germans laugh at jokes just as much as other nations. I believe that this "Germany is a bit humourless" is related to the German language because the German language is a bit cumbersome with these long words, long sentences, and sentence structures. You know that the verb is at the end in German subordinate clauses. You have to wait a very long time to understand what it's all about, and that's sometimes not so good with jokes. That is why it is a bit difficult to make jokes in German; unfortunately, the sentence structure and the language structure are not ideal for this. For talk shows, on the other hand, it is very ideal because the speakers cannot interrupt each other so often because they have to wait until the end of the sentence to know what the other person has said or wants to say.

So, what are you laughing about in Germany? What are you joking about in Germany?

You joke about regions and always about the ones you don't live in. So, the Bavarians are kidding about the East Frisians; the East Frisians are joking about the Swabians. The Swabians joke about the Hamburgers, the Hamburgers about Berlin, and so on. Quite typical. I think that's the way it is in every country.

Then, people in Germany make jokes about nationalities or with the help of nationalities. For example, jokes often start like this: "A German, a Spaniard, a Frenchman and a Brit are sitting in a bar." Then, stereotypes are described as to how they behave. And, of course, the German always wins when we are in Germany.

Then there are the classic Fritzchen jokes. Fritzchen, this character, is a little boy who experiences funny or strange things, and this Fritzchen is also available in other languages. In English, his name is Johnny; in the UK, his name is Pierino; in Italy, his name is Pepito; and in France, his name is Toto. The figure is identical; the figure is always the same. So, the jokes can easily be transferred from one language to another.

A typical German joke is the so-called anti-joke. These are jokes in quotation marks because they are not funny at all. An anti-joke, for example, is: "Two men walk across a bridge. One jumps into the water, and the other is called Helmut." Where's the joke? Nowhere really. But this is humour that Germans love.

And the humour that Germans also love is satire, especially about politics and society. There are many films about this, and this joke is very common in Germany.

We're going to the UK. In Great Britain, there is this Fritzchen from Germany, where this character is called Johnny. And in the UK, black humour is very common. Black comedy is always a little nasty. There are many word games. So, word games mean you play with the language, change a letter, get a different meaning of the word, and create a joke. And slapstick is a typical joke in Britain. Slapstick are often exaggerated scenes, even pantomimic. So, it's not being talked about. Maybe you've heard of Dick and Doof. The two figures are typical slapsticks. And Mister Bean is also slapstick. Mister Bean makes a lot of grimaces. I'm sure you've seen him before. Typical representatives of the British joke are Monty Python, i.e. this Monty Python group.

We're going to Italy. In Italy, jokes or humour, generally, is very much influenced by the Commedia dell 'Arte. A representative for jokes, for really funny things on TV, for example, is Roberto Benigni. You've probably heard that name before. Roberto Benigni is a director and actor. He made the movie "Life is Beautiful" and got the Oscar for this movie. And what did Roberto Benigni do in that Oscar ceremony hall? He heard it, jumped up and over all the chairs and armchairs, and was happy like a punching ball.

The Italian Pierino is the Fritzchen in Germany and the Johnny in England. So, these kinds of jokes are everywhere.

Italians also laugh about other regions, especially northern Italians laughing about southern Italy and southern Italians laughing about northern Italy. So, as in Germany, it is always the region where you do not live.

A common joke in Italy is about certain professions, especially carabinieri and politicians. Many jokes about politicians such as Berlusconi have been made, and probably many jokes are still being made.

We're going to Spain. Pierino, Johnny, Fritzchen is called Pepito in Spanish. And Spaniards laugh a lot at themselves. They are self-deprecating, make jokes about themselves, and love bizarre, strange, funny situations and slapstick, as well as the English or the British.

And we are the last to go to France. In France, jokes are also made about regions, i.e. northern France about southern France, southern France about north France, but also about countries, which means that the French find Belgians very funny.

French humour is intellectual humour, so it's very, yes, very thoughtful. So, a little, always a little smart. And yes, that's my information about the jokes. And now I have my Fritzchen, Johnny, Pierino, Pepito, and Toto jokes.

In Germany:

Fritzchen. The teacher says, "Fritzchen, why isn't your homework done?" and Fritzchen replies: "Yes, teacher, my homework is like ghosts; everyone talks about it,

but no one has seen it."

In Great Britain:

By Johnny Teacher: "Johnny, can you use 'interesting' in a sentence? And Johnny replies, "Certainly, sir. My cat ate my homework, and I thought, 'Well, that is an interesting turn of events'."

In Italian:

Pierino: La maestra dice: "Pierino, perché non hai fatto i compiti?" E Pierino risponde: "Mi dispiace, ma il mio cane aveva bisogno di qualcosa su cui fare pratica per il suo corso di dentista."

In Spanish:

Pepito. Profesor: "¿Pepito, porqué llegaste tarde a clase?" Y Pepito contesta: "Es que me encontré un billete de 5 euros en el suelo y pensé que era mi día de pago por venir a la escuela."

In France.

Toto: Maître: "Toto, pourquoi n 'as-tu pas fait tes devoirs ?" Et Toto repond: "Eh bien, maître, je me suis dit que l'éducation est censée être libre, non ? J'essaie simplement de libérer mes devoirs."

The translations of these jokes are: I don't have to translate the German one.

Britain. The teacher, says, "Johnny, can you use 'interesting' in a sentence?" and Johnny replies, "Of course, Mr. Teacher. My cat ate my homework, and I said, 'Well, that's an interesting turn of events'."

The Italian joke. The teacher says, "Pierino, why didn't you do your homework?" and Pierino replies, "I'm sorry, but my dog had to practice for his dental class, and I thought

he could use my homework.”

The Spanish joke of Pepito. The teacher asks, “Pepito, why were you late for school?” Pepito replies, “Well, I found a five-euro bill on the street, and I thought that was my salary to get to school.”

And the French joke was Toto. The teacher asks, “Toto, why didn't you do your homework?” Toto replies, “Well, teacher, I thought education should be free, right? I'm just trying to free my homework.”

And this is my information. Hope you've had a nice time. If so, give me a like, share my channel, subscribe, and have fun learning German. Have fun, and have a nice day. Bye.