



Transcript English for "Typically German?"

Hello, this is Christine from Mindmap your German, and today the topic we're going to talk about is "Typical German". We're talking today about the topic "Typically German" with a question mark at the end, because maybe there are people who say: "No, that's not typically German", or "That's not typically German, but that's typically Bavarian, typically East Frisian, typically Berlin" and so on. So, we're talking about "Typically German?" and I have four categories for you: culinary, through the year, lifestyle and culture, etc. I've put everything in there that didn't fit anywhere else.

Let's start with culinary. I have three main topics for you in food: Potatoes, sausage and bread. People sometimes jokingly say, "If you can't recite at least twenty ways of preparing potatoes by heart, you're not a good German." How many can you manage? I can't manage twenty, but I think there are quite a few. It starts with chips, potato gratin, potato dumplings, potato noodles, farmer's breakfast, rosemary potatoes, boiled potatoes, jacket potatoes, mashed potatoes, potato pancakes and so on and so forth. There are so many ways to prepare potatoes. They don't exist in other countries. In Italy, we have pasta instead.

Then we come to sausage. Sausage is also an issue in Germany. As I said in the Bavaria video, there are over 1000 types of sausage in Germany. It's a little different in every region. And there is also a custom in Germany that when children go to the

butcher, they always get a piece of sausage as a present, or at least they usually do. Unfortunately not at my age, but definitely as a child. Either a Vienna sausage or a piece of yellow sausage or two slices of ham sausage. Children always get something as a present from the butcher. There are over 1000 types of sausage. Perhaps this is where the tradition of eating cold rather than hot food in the evening comes from in Germany. Not in all families, of course, but in many.

Of course, you also need at least 300 types of bread for these 1000 types of sausage. There are so many types of bread in Germany that even in a certain region, not all types are available every day at the bakery, but the varieties alternate. This means that sometimes there is this type, sometimes that type. Sometimes there's potato bread, sometimes there's spiced bread, sometimes there's beer garden bread, cellar bread, whatever, and they alternate. What always stays the same is the basic range. But sometimes you might want to try special types of bread, a hazelnut bread, walnut bread, a protein bread, bread in a certain shape, then you have to make sure you go to the bakery when they have exactly that type.

We go for the drink. The classic: beer. There are so many types of beer in Germany, it's hard to believe. There are 300 breweries in our region, in northern Bavaria, in Upper Franconia. This is the region with the highest density of breweries in Germany, probably even in the world, and if you consider that each brewery brews between five and ten types of beer, you can imagine how many types of beer we have available. So you can drink a different beer every day for ten years without repeating yourself once.

Apple juice spritzer. I think that's a drink that's only available in Germany, maybe in Switzerland or Austria, but not in other non-German-speaking countries. You always have to explain what it is. An apple juice spritzer is a mixed drink, half carbonated water, i.e. sparkling water, and the other half is apple juice. And all German children grow up with apple juice spritzer. Every German child drinks apple juice spritzer. Schorle is the common name for mixed drinks. Now, of course, there is not only apple juice spritzer, but also grape juice spritzer, blackcurrant juice spritzer, rhubarb juice spritzer and so on and so forth. So you can drink lots of different kinds.

Germany is also known for its wine. "What?" you're going to say, "Spain, Italy, France,

maybe even countries like South Africa, Chile, the USA and California are known for their wine, but not Germany?" Yes, there are very good wines in Germany. For one thing, there is Franconian wine, which comes in a special bottle called a Bocksbeutel. And what is often found in Germany is a very sweet wine called Eiswein. This is because the grapes are only harvested after the first frost, i.e. when it has been very, very cold outside, and as a result they produce a lot of sugar, which makes the wine really, really sweet. So, if you find an ice wine, go ahead and try it.

The second category is "Through the year". We go through the year and start with carnival, which is called Fastnacht in some areas and Fasching in others. The carnival strongholds, a stronghold is a city in which the carnival is really very popular in this case, the carnival strongholds are Cologne, Düsseldorf and Mainz. There are lots of carnival festivities there, lots of state parties and carnival parades on Rose Monday. Large, decorated floats drive through the city. People are dressed up and it's a big parade.

The second tradition throughout the year in Germany is the maypole. It is erected on the first of May and is said to bring good luck. This is the one you may have seen in certain German towns. The custom is of course very common in the countryside and more so in the south than in the north.

The Oktoberfest is next. There's no need to explain it. The Oktoberfest is self-explanatory. Funnily enough, it takes place in September. Take a look at my Bavaria video, where I explain why. And the Oktoberfest is a folk festival in Munich. It's the biggest folk festival in the world, and hectoliters of beer are served, and people eat and drink the whole time.

And to round off the year, we go to the Christmas market. The Christmas markets are very famous in Germany, the most famous is probably the Christkindlesmarkt in Nuremberg. In fact, and this is a special feature, only quality products are sold there, so the Christmas market, the Christkindlesmarkt in Nuremberg has set itself the task of only selling things that are well made in terms of quality. So, you won't find Christmas pyramids from China, but from the Ore Mountains, for example.

Let's move on to lifestyle. When it comes to lifestyle, there are many special features in Germany, and I emphasize that this is just a selection. There are many, many more. Let's start with the bicycle. Germany is a cycling nation. We cycle all the time, now more e-bikes than normal bikes, but as a result, and this is the good thing, there is a very, very, very well-developed cycle network. The cycle paths are really well developed. Almost every street has a cycle path. What's a bit surprising is that the northern European countries, like, yes, north-central European countries like Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, that more people cycle there than in Italy or Spain, for example, where the weather is actually much better. But we are hardened, we do it. And we have an ideal infrastructure for it.

The second point is coffee and cake. Coffee and cake is an afternoon tradition. In Germany, you don't just have a cup of coffee, you immediately look at what's for lunch, what's for cake, what's for pie and so on, and you eat cake or pie and drink coffee with it. Coffee and cake. It's also called a coffee party. So when people, mostly women, get together and drink coffee and eat cake, eat pie, that's a coffee party.

Lifestyle next point: cash. In contrast to other countries, cash is still a big issue in Germany. Nobody leaves the house without cash, and many people pay for everything in cash and not by card. That's changing a bit now, but a lot of people still pay with cash. And you won't believe it: there are stores, restaurants, cafés, all sorts of places where you can't pay by card. For example, there's a restaurant here in Bamberg where you have to pay in cash, and there are sometimes very bizarre scenes. This restaurant is in the middle of the city, and of course tourists also go there. But tourists sometimes don't know that. This means that if there are two of them there and they have to pay in cash after they've eaten and they can't, one tourist has to stay there as a deposit and the other has to go to the cash machine and get money so that they can pay their bill. These are sometimes very bizarre scenes. It's very funny.

A big topic in Germany "What is typically German?" is waste separation. Not only do we sort paper, glass, plastic, residual waste and organic waste, but we also sort out hazardous waste and batteries and sort the glass by color. I think that's pretty nerdy.

And we're the same with deposits. There is a deposit on German bottles. It's eight cents on beer bottles. On plastic bottles it's 25 cents. That means you buy something to drink, you pay a certain fee for the bottle, even for beverage cans by the way, and when you bring these things, these bottles, these cans back to the store, you get that fee back again

We go to "Kultur und Co". One area of culture is pop music. Pop music is a typical genre, or a typical genre, it's "the genre" of music that probably only exists in this form in Germany. Maybe Helene Fischer means something to you, maybe you know the old artists like Costa Cordalis or something like that. Well, that's typical pop music. And lots of people love it. You can argue about whether it's beautiful or not, but a lot of people love it. And where pop music is often played is at Oktoberfest and carnival, at these celebrations.

You've probably heard of Made in Germany. Made in Germany is a sign of quality, or at least it used to be. If a product was labeled Made in Germany, you could assume that it was of good quality. That's the case, for example, with companies like Henkel, who make washing powder and things like that, Miele for washing machines, Siemens for dishwashers, fridges, stoves and so on, so Made in Germany was a sign of quality, even for cars, by the way: BMW, Mercedes, Volkswagen, Audi and so on.

A typical custom in Germany is the school cone. The school cone is a large cone, looks like an ice cream cone, only very large, made of paper, cardboard, containing various sweets and school supplies such as erasers, pencils, rulers and so on, and this school cone is nicely decorated, and pupils receive it on the first day of school, i.e. when they go to school for the first time. And for many children it's probably the only reason they want to go to school at all, because they want this school cone. So it's an incentive, a little reward for the children to go to school.

Germany, typically German. Many people think of Germany as the land of poets and thinkers. Well, the land of poets, you probably know writers like Schiller, Goethe, poets like Heine, Lessing, for example, is also a writer, so these classic writers. These are the poets. And the thinkers are the philosophers, Hegel and so on. And strangely enough, foreigners are often more interested in these philosophers than Germans. And

I know why that is, at least I think I do. I think it's because philosophy is not normally a school subject in Germany, but in other countries like Italy and Spain it often is. And as a result, pupils come into contact with these thinkers more and find them really great.

And this is my video for you from today. "Typically German" as a question. Let me know in the comments what you think is typically German. I would also be interested: What is typical for your country? There are all kinds of stereotypes. Share my channel, subscribe to my channel and please contact me if you want to work with me or if you have a question. Thanks for watching and have a great day - see you soon. See you soon.