

German-speaking countries



Germany

Population: 85 million
Native speakers population: 92%
Second language population: 7%

High German originates from the Hanover region and is the standard form of German used in writing, politics, academia, and journalism. Germans are very proud of their regional dialects, which vary widely, from Low German (Plattdeutsch) around the North Sea, to Bayerisch in the south and around Munich.

How to say hello in different parts of Germany!

Hamburg: "Moin!"
Munich: "Grüß Gott!"
Berlin: "Juten Tach!"
Stuttgart: "Gunn Tach!"
Cologne: "Tach!"

THERE ARE 230 MILLION GERMAN SPEAKERS GLOBALLY. IT IS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN 6 COUNTRIES, ALL OF WHICH ARE IN EUROPE: GERMANY, AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND, BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG AND LIECHTENSTEIN.

Luxembourg

Population: 600,000
Native speakers population: 2%
Second language population: 68%

Although standard German is widely spoken, the native language of Luxembourg is Luxembourgish, which has similarities to High German.

Say "Moien!" to say hello in Luxembourgish.

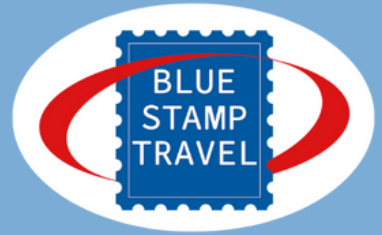
'ß' = sharp 'S' sound

Switzerland

Population: 8.5 million
Native speakers population: 65%
Second language population: 5%

Swiss German (Schweizerdeutsch) is an Alemannic German dialect and is very different to other German dialects. It is pronounced very differently. It is influenced by French and Italian, since they are also the official languages of Switzerland. It also has some different vocabulary and sentence structures to standard German.

In Switzerland, as well as Liechtenstein, they do not use the Eszett 'ß' character in writing, which is pronounced a sharp 's' sound. Instead, they use 's' or 'ss'. To say hello in Switzerland, say "Grüezi!"



Austria

Population: 9 million
Native speakers population: 93%
Second language population: 6%

Austrian German (Österreichisches Deutsch) is similar in grammar to High German, but it has some unique vocabulary. For example, the word for plum in Hochdeutsch is "Pflaume", while in Austrian German it's "Zwetschge". Vowels are often prolonged, making the accent much softer and more melodic.

You can say "Grüß Gott!" or "Servus" to greet someone in Austria!



GERMAN IS ALSO A NATIONAL MINORITY LANGUAGE IN BRAZIL, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, HUNGARY, NAMIBIA, POLAND, ROMANIA, RUSSIA, AND SLOVAKIA.

GERMAN IS ALSO A CO-OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH TYROL IN NORTHERN ITALY, AS WELL AS THE OPÓLE AND SILESIAN PROVINCES IN SOUTHERN POLAND.

A dialect is a particular form of a language which is unique to a specific region or social group.