

German Bridging lesson 2

The great thing about the German A level is that it lets you explore the language. Moving on from GCSE where a lot of the language is functional - describing a holiday, giving opinion - A level lets you see into a German-speaking world with endless possibilities. Film language, everyday spoken language, literary language, the beauty of the construction of the language, they all become part of your experience at A level, building on the great foundations you have from GCSE.

So, for lesson 2 I am introducing you to some German idioms. Idioms are a great way of making your writing and speaking more advanced, as well as sounding more German.

They can be used for opinion (A), in everyday speech (B) and then in proverbs (C)

Watch this clip on youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cARo1w7tpc0>

So, your task is to match up the idiom (on the left) with its actual meaning (in the right-hand column), using the literal meaning to help (?)

A.

Deutsch	English (literally)	What it means and how to use it
1. Es/Das ist zum Einschlafen.	It/That puts you to sleep.	A. It is the latest fashion. <i>Use it as an exclamation with 'das' or as a statement about something.</i>
2. Es/Das ist zum Totlachen.	It/That makes you die of laughter.	B. This winds me up. <i>Use it as an exclamation to say that something annoys you.</i>
3. Es/Das ist 08/15 (null - acht - fünfzehn).	It/That is zero - eight - fifteen.	C. It is a waste of time or effort. <i>Use it as a set phrase, e.g. to give an opinion about a pointless subject or task you have to do at school.</i>

4. Das/Es ist der letzte Schrei.	That/It is the latest scream.	D. It is an awesome party. <i>Use it as an exclamation</i>
5. Das ist/wäre das I-Tüpfelchen.	That is/would be the dot on the 'i'.	E. That is/would be the icing on the cake. <i>Use it as an exclamation in the present with 'ist' or use the conditional with 'wäre'.</i>
6. Da steppt der Bär.	That's where the bear dances.	F. I've had enough. <i>Use it as an exclamation that you've had enough of a certain situation..</i>
7. Er/Sie ist eine Nervensäge.	He/she is a nerve saw.	G. He/she is really annoying. <i>Use it to describe a person.</i>
8. Da liegt der Hund begraben.	A dog is buried there.	H. It is a very boring place where nothing happens. <i>Use it as a set phrase to describe a boring place on holiday or a boring village/town.</i>
9. Ich habe die Nase voll.	I have the nose full.	I. It is really boring. <i>Use it with 'finden' or a form of 'sein' (e.g. 'ist' or 'sind')</i>
10. Das bringt mich auf die Palme.	This brings me up on the palm tree.	J. It is really funny. <i>Use it with 'finden' or a form of 'sein' (e.g. 'ist' or 'sind').</i>
11. Das ist für die Katz.	This is for the cat.	K. It is average. <i>Use it with 'finden' or a form of 'sein' (e.g. 'ist' or 'sind') for speaking only, as it is very colloquial.</i>

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- 11.

B.

Deutsch	English (literally)	What it means and how to use it
1. Ich verstehe nur Bahnhof.	I only understand train station.	A. I don't care. <i>Use it in a conversation to say that you don't have a preference.</i>
2. Da kannst du Gift drauf nehmen.	You can take poison on that.	B. That's ok / It's not a big deal. <i>Use it as a set phrase in a conversation.</i>
3. Das ist mir Wurst.	This is sausage to me.	C. That's right. <i>Use it is a set phrase if you want to agree with somebody</i>
4. Das macht nix.	That makes nothing.	D. You can bet your life on that. <i>Use it as a set phrase to give a definite yes to a yes/no question</i>
5. Das kannst du laut sagen.	You can say that loudly.	E. I haven't got a clue. <i>Use it as a set phrase when you don't know what's going on.</i>

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C.

Deutsch	English (literally)	What it means and how to use it
1. Ich drücke dir die Daumen.	I squeeze my thumbs for you.	A. Have a nice evening! /Enjoy your free time! <i>This is what Germans wish each other at the end of a working day.</i>
2. Ich habe Schwein gehabt.	I had pig.	B. You don't always get what you want. <i>This phrase was famously used by football manager Jürgen Klopp.</i>
3. Das Lied ist ein richtiger Ohrwurm.	The song is a real ear worm.	C. I was very lucky. Use it in the past tense.
4. Das Leben ist kein Ponyhof.	Life is not a pony farm.	D. Fingers crossed. Use it as a set phrase to wish somebody good luck.
5. Das Leben ist kein Wunschkonzert.	Life is not a wish concert.	E. The song is very catchy. Use it to describe your favourite song.
6. Schönen Feierabend!	Nice celebration evening!	F. Life isn't fair. Use it to tell somebody to get over it if they are complaining.
7. Die beleidigte Leberwurst spielen.	To play the offended liver sausage.	G. To sulk. <i>Use this to mock somebody who is sulking. You need to use the correct form of 'spielen' to use it in a sentence, e.g. 'Sie spielt die beleidigte Leberwurst' or 'Spiel nicht die beleidigte Leberwurst'.</i>

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Have a go at replacing the underlined expressions with one of the idioms above:

- a. Viel Glück!.....
- b. Der Film war sehr lustig.....
- c. Im Urlaub hat es sehr viel geregnet.....
- d. Ich hasse meine Stadt, denn man kann hier nichts machen.....
.....
- e. Meine Deutschlehrerin ist total verrückt.....
.....
- f. Schule war heute total langweilig.....
- g. Gehst du morgen auf die Party? Ja, auf jeden Fall.....
- h. Ich möchte ein Pferd haben. Das wäre das beste!
- i. Ich habe das nicht verstanden.....
- j. Es tut mir leid, aber ich habe deinen Kuli verloren. Das ist ok.....

So, zum Schluß

Follow this link to listen to an episode of News in slow German on 10th June. Write a short summary of one of the stories here in German:

<https://www.dw.com/de/deutsch-lernen/nachrichten/s-8030>