The purpose of this newsletter is to offer tips for beginner students and intermediate students of German. We also want to start a weekly meet-up to exchange ideas and plan further events. Each week there will be a featured article (please contact us if you would like to write a short article about German culture or language), a grammar topic, a vocabulary topic and an article written auf Deutsch.

FOR BEGINNER STUDENTS OF GERMAN:

Der, die, das? How do I know which to use? There are some basic guidelines in German based on the type of the noun and its spelling, but the best way to master the genders of nouns in German is: to always learn the German noun with its article. Die Sprache, das Buch, der Stift (the language, the book, the pen). Don’t forget to add plural form: Die Sprachen, die Bücher, die Stifte. Immersion is essential for mastering the German genders, but intentionally learning the articles in the beginning of your studies will allow you to recall the gender and plural form automatically.

Aussprache (Pronunciation): ie and ei are pronounced in two distinct ways in German. Learning to pronounce them correctly will allow you to avoid embarrassing mistakes (such as switching: leider- unfortunately, Lieder- songs, or schießen- to shoot, schießen- to s***), and it will also improve your reading, spelling and listening skills! Learn the pronunciation through words you already know: Nein, mein (like English letter “I”) Die, spielen (rhymes with English word, key).

*Recommended source of the week: Hallo Deutschschule YouTube channel- “Aussprache Deutsch A1”*

Weekly meet-up starting April 12, 2017: Meet and Greet from 4:30pm-5:00pm on Wednesdays at Saxbys (first floor of the library)

“BERLIN” BY ALLIE RICHARDSON, B.A. HISTORY CLASS OF 2020

Landing in Berlin at 9:00 on the night of March 12 was honestly one of the best moments of my life. I had been traveling for nearly 24 hours, and I was completely exhausted—but, I was finally in Germany. I’d been wanting to go for years, and I finally had the opportunity
to go with GSU’s Spring Break program, *Berlin Beyond the Wall: Urban Space and Cultural Flows*. The best part of the trip was probably getting to know everyone and spending time together. We went all over the city—two walking tours on Monday and Tuesday (each with totally different perspectives on the city), followed by a boat tour on Wednesday, that almost nobody stayed awake for. We saw parts of old Berlin: the Reichstag, Unter den Linden, the Nikolaikirche. We also saw parts that were built out of the rubble after the world wars. We learned about graffiti and street art and the gentrification of the city one day, and went visited museums the next day. We ate food from every continent, a different country and part of the city every night. I think the trip allowed us to see the spirit of Berlin: a mixture of old and new, and of people coming from many different places, who all leave their mark on the city. This was an amazing program, and I would like to encourage everyone to go—not just to Berlin—but anywhere in Germany! It will be a rewarding experience, and you’ll come back with much more, such as confidence in your language skills or just a new view of the world.

*Recommended source of the week: LanguageSheep YouTube channel- “Deutsch: Aussprache von R”*

**GRAMMATIK DER WOCHE:**

The four German cases (*Fälle*), nominative, accusative, dative and genitive (*Nominativ, Akkusativ, Dativ, Genitiv*), are used with specific prepositions and verbs. As an introduction to German cases *beginnen wir mit Akkusativpräpositionen* (let’s start with accusative-prepostions.) Here are two *Eselsbrücken* to remember them!

*Die Eselsbrücke* (“donkey bridge”; mnemonic rhyme, device to aid memory)

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**FOR INTERMEDIATE STUDENTS OF GERMAN: AUSSPRACHE VON R**

*R* is pronounced in several ways. *Aber es ist doch nicht so schlimm! Hier sind ein paar Beispiele:*

1. [*r*] Start of the word & after voiced consonants (i.e. there is vibration in the throat): reisen, Brot

2. [*x*] After voiceless consonants f, k, p, sch, t *r* is pronounced like [*x*] in Bu*ch*: kran*k*, Schrift

3. [*r*] After a short vowel or a, it is a weaker *r*: wahr, Wort

4. [*a*] When the word ends with -er, only a sound: Mutter, Wetter

*Recommended source of the week: LanguageSheep YouTube channel- “Deutsch: Aussprache von R”*
All of the following prepositions are always followed by the accusative case

**DOG FU:** *Durch, ohne, gegen, für, um* (through, without, against, for, around)

**FUDGE BOW:** *für, um, durch, gegen, entlang* (along), *bis* (until), *ohne, wider* (against)

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1. German: **aktuell**; English translation: *current*
   English: *actually*; German translation: *eigentlich*

2. German: **brav**; English translation: *well-behaved.*
   English: *brave*; English translation: *mutig*

3. German: **eventuell**; English translation: *possibly, potenitally*
   English: *eventually*; German translation: *endlich, schließlich*

4. German: **die Fantasie**; English translation: *imagination*
   English: *fantasy*; German translation: *der Tagtraum*

5. German: **spenden**; English translation: *to donate*
   English: *to spend*; German translation: *ausgeben*

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**WORTSCHATZ DER WOCHE:**

*Falsche Freunde!* (false cognates)

There are many similarities in German and English vocabulary; however, there are also several note-worthy *falsche Freunde*. Here are a few of them:

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**NOW IT IS TIME TO READ IN GERMAN:**

**FILMISCHER EXPRESSIONISMUS**

Samantha Bierworth led a successful screening of *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (*Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari*) on April 4, 2017. Let’s read some information about the film *auf Deutsch.*
Filmischer Expressionismus:

Filmischer Expressionismus hat wesentlich in Deutschland entwickelt. Das *Kabinett des Dr. Caligari* und *Metropolis* (1927) markieren den Beginn und den Ausgang des expressionistischen Films. Der Höhepunkt des expressionistischen Films war von 1920 bis 1925, also die Stummfilmzeit der Filmgeschichte.

**Stilmittel expressionistischer Filme:**
konstrastreiche Beleuchtung, gemalte Schatten, harte Kontraste, verzerrte Kulissen, surrealistische Elemente, Symbole, und übertriebene Gestik.

**Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari:**

*Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari* (1920) gilt als ein Meilenstein der Filmgeschichte. Robert Wiene hat die Regie des Filmes geführt. Erzählt wird die Geschichte des Dr. Caligari, des Direktors einer Irrenanstalt, der durch die Hand des Schlafwandlers Cesare nachts Morde begehen lässt. Francis, ein junger Mann und Freund eines der Opfer, findet die Wahrheit heraus. Tatsächlich waren die expressionistischen Stilmittel im Film ein Rückgriff auf die Formensprache der Malerei und des Theaters. Wiene und sein Team inszenierten die kleine Stadt Holstenwall als surrealistischen Ort wie aus einem Fiebertraum.

Hopefully this newsletter was sowohl helpful, als auch interesting. Don’t forget the weekly meet-up! Feedback and suggestions are welcome. If you are interested in writing a featured article, or you have an idea for an event please contact the president of the German Club, Kevin Lister: klister1@student.gsu.edu

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Das Spieglein Official German Club Newsletter Team:

German Club President: Kevin Lister
Editor and Lead Writer: Stephanie Ford
Illustrator: Zainab Almahdi
Featured Writer of the Week: Allie Richardson