

Auf geht's! Cultural Targets

Unit 2: Familie und Freunde

This handout covers the pertinent cultural information present in Unit 2 of *Auf geht's!*. Complete the following exercises in order to help you prepare for an exam on this unit. All information is available in the Interactive.

A. Freund vs. friend.

1. Define the terms below.

a. *Freund/Freundin*:

b. *Kollege/Kollegin*:

c. *ein/e Freund/in von mir*:

2. Describe what the German word *Bekannte* means. Is it comparable to the English word acquaintance in your opinion?

3. After living in the U.S. for many years, a German was quoted as saying: *Ich hatte viele Bekannte aber keine Freunde*. Explain why some Germans might think friendships in the U.S. tend to be more superficial than in Germany.

B. Hobbies in Germany.

1. Why do some sport hobbies such as golf and sailing require certification or a license?

2. Germans tend to go about their hobbies and sports in a more regulated way than Americans and like to interact with others who share similar interests in groups called *Vereine*. List at least five characteristics of a *Verein*.

3. What are some associations Germans have with *Vereine*, namely younger people?

4. German universities do not have athletic programs as developed as those American schools. What are some benefits of this? Are there any?

C. Cultural gap management. The following questions are about general cultural differences that might be present between Germans and people from the U.S. or Canada.

1. True or false: American families have more children on average than German ones.
2. How many children would you consider to be a lot in a family? Three? Four? More?
3. The current birth rate (per thousand people) in America is 13.82 and 8.18 in Germany. Only Japan and Hong Kong have lower birth rates than Germany.* Can you think of any possible reasons for why Germany has such a low birth rate?

* Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_birth_rate