

# Auf geht's! Cultural Targets

# Unit 3: Wohnen

This handout covers the pertinent cultural information present in Unit 3 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. Die Uni.

1. List three characteristics of a typical German *Mensa*.

2. What is a *Studentenwohnheim*? How does it differ from your country in terms of cost, location and living arrangements?

3. Describe what you'd typically see and find in a German dorm room.

4. True or False: Many different departments in German universities are often located within the same building.

5. What is a *Hiwi*?

6. Why is the title "Professor" more prestigious in Germany than the US?

## B. Wohnen.

1. What does it mean to live *privat*?

2. The word *Garten* in German describes a \_\_\_\_\_, not just a literal \_\_\_\_\_.

3. What is an *Einfamilienhaus*? Is it the same as a single-family home?

4. How is the German word *Haus* different than the English word "house"?

## C. Das Haus.

1. List one or more differences for each room below compared to the USA/Canada.

a. *die Küche*:

b. *der Flur*:

c. *das Wohnzimmer*:

**C. Das Haus. (cont.)**

d. *das Schlafzimmer*:

e. *die Treppe*:

2. What does it mean if you ask to use the *Badezimmer* in someone's house? What should you say instead?

**D. Offene und geschlossene Türen.**

1. Explain what is meant by "Germans are not highly mobile."

2. Give a couple of reasons why doors in German households and offices might always be closed.

3. If you had a German exchange student staying at your home, and that student always had his/her bedroom door closed, what would you think? Would you feel comfortable knocking on the door? What message does a closed door send to you?

**E. Deutsche Fenster.**

1. List three ways German windows can differ from American ones.

2. What are some reasons why you won't find screens on all windows in Germany?

3. Name some reasons why people in Germany sometimes keep their windows open a crack.

**F. Frische Luft.**

1. What is *frische Luft* beyond just "fresh air"?

2. Why don't many German homes and movie theaters have air conditioning? Give at least two reasons.

**F. Frische Luft. (cont.)**

3. What is a *Zugluft*?

4. Germans like to get fresh air, but they don't like drafts. Why is this not contradictory?

**G. Der Garten.**

1. True or false: On average, Germans take more pride in having well-kept, manicured yards than Americans.

2. What are *Gartenzwerge*? Do you find them in every single German garden?

3. Explain what *die Kleingärten* were.

4. Who was Dr. Schreber, and what is he known for?

5. What did Dr. Hauschild bring to the concept of urban gardens?

6. Are *Schrebergärten* still found in Germany? What can you expect to find in most of them?