

## WORTSCHATZ: WORAUS TRINKEN DIE DEUTSCHEN? VOCABULARY: WHAT BEVERAGES DO GERMANS DRINK FROM?

beverage: das Getränk, die Getränke  
 drinking container: das Gefäß, die Gefäße  
 der Behälter, die Behälter  
 drinking wares: die Trinkwaren

6. boot of beer: der Stiefel, ein Stiefel Bier
- glass boot of beer, which holds a gallon of beer
  - purists say this is for people who are only allowed one glass of beer a day for health reasons



Walk into a "German bar" in the US and you'll be offered the chance to drink beer out of a large glass boot. So you might be disappointed when you walk through the doors of a pub in Germany and find the locals drinking out of very ordinary looking beer glasses.

Why this weird way of drinking has become associated with Germany in the States remains something of a puzzle.

One version of events has it that glass drinking boots began to appear in Europe in the 1800s and became a popular rite of passage for German soldiers during the First World War. They were then seemingly introduced to the US through American soldiers stationed in Germany after the Second World War.

The 2006 movie *Beerfest* is however the main culprit for this mistaken idea, a film in which Americans discover glass drinking boot challenges, before taking on a team of Lederhosen-bedecked Bavarians in the final scene (sorry to anyone who hasn't already seen this fantastic film).

*Das Boot* actually means "the boat" in German, not a shoe. So if you ask after *das Boot*, Germans will probably think you're talking about the award-winning 1981 film about a U-boat crew, and send you towards a DVD-rental outlet.