

DAS TÄGLICHE LEBEN / DAILY CUSTOMS

13 THINGS FOREIGNERS DO THAT MAKES GERMANS REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE

Eating at your desk

It's not really the done thing in German workplaces to stuff a badly-made sandwich and packet of crisps into your mouth while you're typing away on your computer at your desk.

In many workplaces, you'll be encouraged to at the very least to eat your lunch in the canteen or anywhere away from your desk, if not take a full hour's break.

It's traditional in Germany to eat a large hot meal at lunch time (which is usually taken between 12noon and 2pm) and workplace canteens often reflect that with their excellent choices (I'm looking at you Käsespätzle – cheesy pasta – or potatoes and quark).

In fact, the use of the greeting "Mahlzeit!" (mealtime) reflects this part of German culture. You might find a German colleague say that to you just as you leave your desk to go and fill your stomach, although in some parts of Germany it's used as a greeting all day long.



Things are changing in Germany and you may find more people do eat at their desk but it's still a bit frowned upon.

Basically lunch is taken seriously, and who are we to argue with that?