

## DAS TÄGLICHE LEBEN / DAILY CUSTOMS

**13 THINGS FOREIGNERS DO THAT MAKE GERMANS REALLY UNCOMFORTABLE****Not taking your shoes off at someone's home**

It's polite in Germany to ask your host if they would like you to take your shoes off when you visit their home.

In some cases, German hosts will offer their guests slippers to wear while they are inside their house.

**Turning up fashionably late**

Okay, it is a stereotype that Germans are really punctual but we've found that being on time is an important part of the culture here.

If you get an invitation to someone's house – especially for a meal – it is best to arrive on time, or as close to on time as you can manage. There really is no such thing being fashionably late in Germany.

Also be aware that in a business context, being on time often means arriving 10 or 15 minutes early.

**Being vague**

Germans really like details. Here's an example: if you ask a German person how big their flat is they wouldn't just explain how many bedrooms it has. They'd be able to tell you the exact size in square metres.

If you want to impress Germans, memorize numbers and be exact when you're explaining things.

**Oversharing**

If you really want to freak a German colleague or an acquaintance out then just let rip on everything with no boundaries. Tell them about what you had for breakfast, how much you earn, who you support politically, and, I mean, why not if you're on a roll, when you had your last poo.

These are details you might share with your best friend but Germans take a slower approach to friendship, preferring to build it up over time.

When you're getting to know Germans you have to be patient. But remember: once they trust and like you, you'll likely have a friend for life. Although it's still perhaps best to keep your toilet habits to yourself for the most part.