

Fasching und Karneval: Grüße und Narrenrufe (greetings and fool shouts)

der Brauch, die Bräuche: custom

das Gruß, die Grüße: greeting

der Ausdruck, die Ausdrücke: expression, saying

der Narrenruf, die Narrenrufe: shouts, screams, calls from a fool

Helau! – Düsseldorf's Karneval greeting, used in many places including Mainz, and either derived from "Hallelujah" or "Hello."

In other parts of Germany – usually on the other side of the Rhine River – Germans celebrate Carnival with the salutation Helau. The origins of this word are unclear, but some believe it comes from *hel auf* or *Hölle auf*, both of which are associated with hell. If this is the case, then the meaning of this word has something to do with keeping away the evils associated with hell.



Using the word "Helau" in Cologne will not be taken kindly.

"Helau!" is the traditional Carnival cheer in Mainz and Düsseldorf, and therefore should never be heard in Cologne!



Helau! – Carnival greeting in Düsseldorf.