

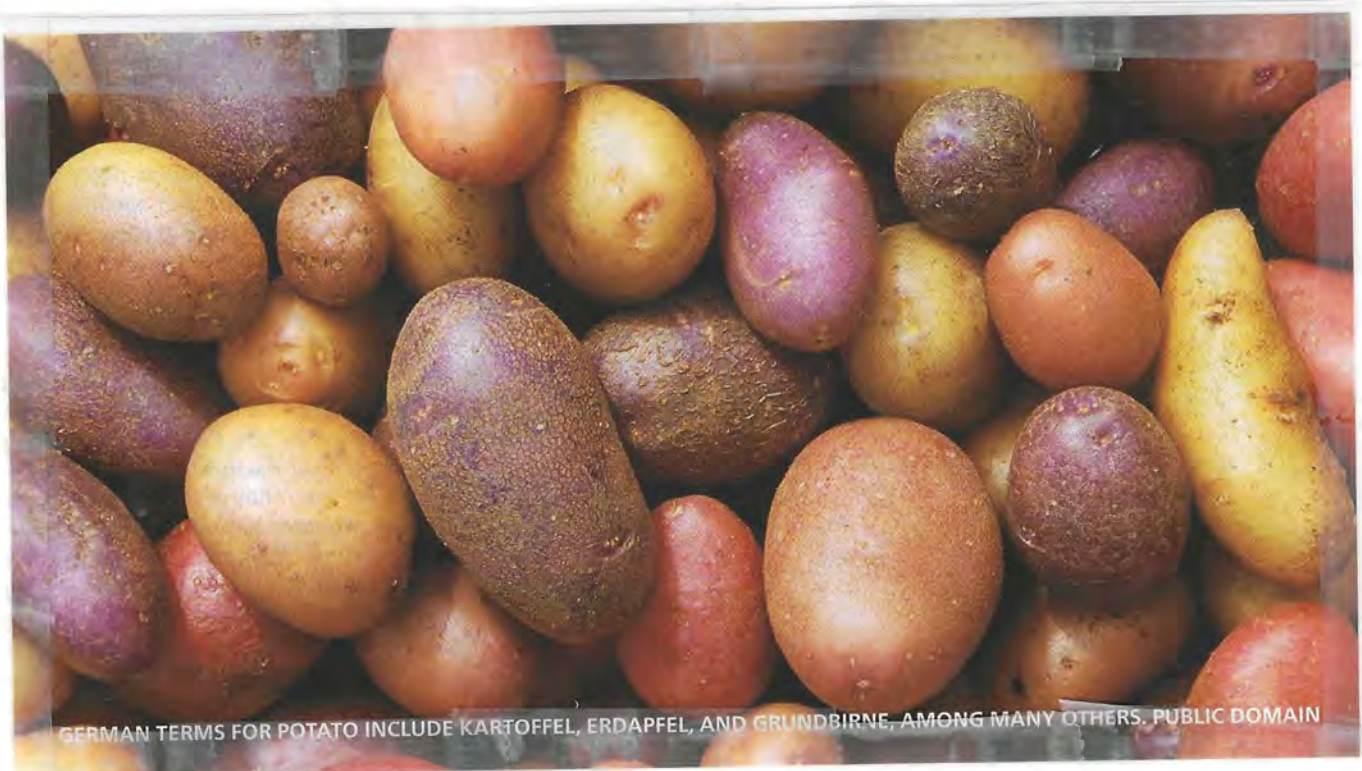
WAS ESSEN DIE DEUTSCHEN?

You just ordered cow's udder

Let's start with potatoes. An import from the New World that took a long time to be adopted as a staple food in Europe, potatoes have since managed to acquire several names in German. In standard German a potato is a **Kartoffel** (derived from the Italian term for truffle, which potatoes somewhat resemble in shape, as well as growing underground like truffles). But in Austrian German, a potato is an **Erdapfel** (earth apple), whereas in Swabia and some other places it's called an **Erdbirne** (earth pear). In some parts of Germany, the tuber is known as a **Grundbirne** (ground or earth pear) or **Grumbeere** (not a kind of berry, *Beere*, but instead Pfälz dialect for *Grundbirne*).

From that point, the different spellings of those three root words proliferate, depending on where you are: **Erdäpfel**, **Erdäpfle**, **Erappel**, **Ädäppel**, even **Abira** in the Rhineland; **Härdöpfel**, **Herdöpfel**, **Häppere**, **Gummeli**, and **Grumbiehr** in Swiss German; **Artäpfle**, **Hardäpfel**, **Hartapfel**, and

Crombere in Alsatian dialect; and even **Bramburi** (from Czech *brambory*, potatoes) in some parts of Austria. Also, since words don't recognize national or regional borders, you're likely to find more than one term or spelling for the humble potato seeping over into another part of German-speaking Europe.



GERMAN TERMS FOR POTATO INCLUDE KARTOFFEL, ERDAPFEL, AND GRUNDBIRNE, AMONG MANY OTHERS. PUBLIC DOMAIN