

## DEUTSCHER LEBENSTIL UND DEUTSCHE KULTUR (German Lifestyle and Culture)

### 7 things Germans do that make foreigners feel awkward

#### 2. They still have a correcting culture



Germans still sometimes take discipline into their own hands.

Americans, Brits and Canadians are often struck by the reprimands they receive when they first arrive in Germany and don't abide by societal norms.

If a kid has his shoes up on the seat on the bus, it's quite normal for a fellow passenger to lean over and ask him to put them on the floor.

This willingness to discipline other members of the public is particularly strong in the more traditional areas such as Bavaria. There, you may well be confronted by a local who will set you straight. In Berlin, by contrast, the correcting culture is much less apparent.

In Germany people often have no qualms about telling you you're doing something wrong, regardless of whether you're a young child, or a grown adult. One particular bugbear of Germans is crossing roads when there's a red light, and they will often give you a piece of their mind if you decide to jaywalk.

#### 3. They make you pay in cash

Germany is a country famed for technology: its high-spec BMWs, Audis and Porsches, or its efficient transport system. But many foreigners will soon realize that this is in many ways a bit of a myth.

Sometimes it seems that no one is more technophobic than the Germans. The most surprising example is how rarely Germans use debit or credit cards. With contactless technology now available in almost every shop in Britain or the US, it seems bizarre that many restaurants in Germany are cash only.

It can be pretty embarrassing when trying to pay for something and the staff say they don't accept card. The result is all too often a humble apology as you ask the waiter the way to the nearest cash machine. They'll sigh and shrug their shoulders.