

2.1 LET'S TALK



FOCUS QUESTIONS:

- How are different languages related?
- How does knowing something about a language help us learn a culture?

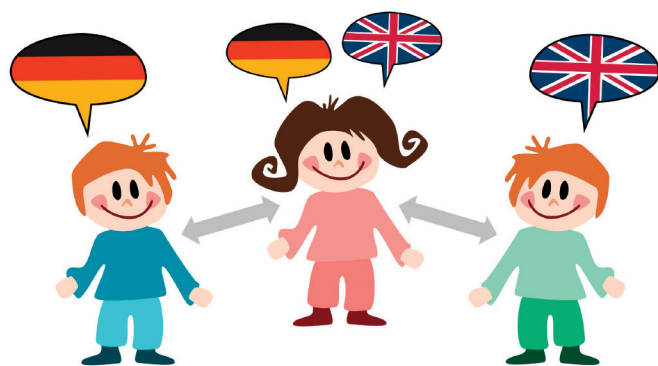
STANDARD #1 CULTURE.

LESSON OVERVIEW:

The focus of this lesson is a brief introduction to the German language, which concentrates on the linguistic similarities of English and German. The students will have the opportunity to learn some basic information, such as numbers, days of the week, months of the year, common expressions and German *loanwords*. In addition, the students will have the opportunity to label some objects in the classroom with their German names and discover similarities and differences between the two languages.

TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Language, like many aspects of culture, is not static; it does not consist of a finite collection of words. In fact, new words and expressions continuously come into use as a result of the interaction of peoples. English, German, and Dutch are Germanic languages, a sub-branch of the Indo-European language family. If one studies the etymology of the English language (the origin and history of words), one may discover that there are many English words which are *loanwords*, that is, words that are borrowed from other languages (including German).



These words have become a natural part of everyday English vocabulary. The earliest German immigrants to the United States arrived in 1608, and with subsequent waves of immigrants, the German language has been spoken in America and taught in many schools and universities. With approximately 100 million native speakers, it's the most widely spoken native language in Western Europe. In the European Union, it is one of the twenty-three "official" languages.

TIME:

2 (45-minute Class Periods)

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES:

- Germanisms Image PowerPoint (**PowerPoint Handout 2.1 A on Resource Disc**)
- Germanisms Handout (**Handout 2.1 B on Resource Disc**)
- German Vocabulary Handout (**Handout 2.1 C on Resource Disc**)
- Post-It-Notes

PROCEDURE:**DAY 1:**

- **Anticipatory Set:** The teacher should ask if any of the students know any words in other languages, or speak a second language.
- By showing the Germanisms Image PowerPoint (**PowerPoint 2.1 A on Resource Disc**) and the Germanisms Handout (**Handout 2.1 B on Resource Disc**), the teacher can point out to the students that although they may not be aware, they already know some German words. The teacher should then explain what *loanwords* are, and perhaps give examples from other languages, as well (e.g. Spanish: tortilla, taco; French: croissant, crepe).
- The teacher should then present the student with a list of German words that are very similar in English and ask the students if they can figure out the meaning of each word:

German	English
Vater	
Mutter	
Salat	
Haus	
gut	
Fisch	
hier	
kühl	
Apfel	
Haar	

DAY 2:

- To give the students a feel for the German language, the teacher may wish to introduce the days of the week, the months of the year, the colors, and/or the numbers from 1-10. The students can see if any of the words are similar to those in English. The students should practice repeating the words orally. Another suggestion for the teacher is to create flashcards with the German word on one side and the English translation on the other.

- The teacher may wish to distribute the German Vocabulary Handout (**Handout 2.1 C on Resource Disc**) and review the terms. The teacher may then hand out Post-It-Notes and ask the students to write the terms and then place them on the correct objects in the classroom.



WHOLE GROUP REFLECTION:

- The teacher should elicit from the students their feelings about being introduced to the German language and if they can see the similarities between German and English.

MODIFICATIONS:

- The teacher may add pictures or photographs to illustrate the German words and increase the students' opportunity to learn the language.
- The students might play charades using some of the new German words.

EXTENSIONS:

- The teacher may wish to introduce some common daily expressions and have the students practice these with a partner.
- Students who are interested in discovering more words that are similar in German and English can research this on the Internet.
- In order to help students pronounce German words and phrases correctly, the teacher may choose to demonstrate the use of the Dictionarist: <http://was.dictionarist.com/>. Students would need to have earphones if a computer lab is used, or the teacher could share this website as a whole group activity.