

2.6.1 GERMANISMS

GERMAN LOANWORDS OR EPONYMS THAT APPEAR IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

English Word	German Word	Definition
Angst	Angst	(N) A feeling of anxiety, apprehension or insecurity
Blitz	Blitz	(N) 1 An intensive aerial military campaign 2 Air Raid
Blitzkrieg	Blitzkrieg	(N) war conducted with great speed and force; specifically : a violent surprise offensive by massed air forces and mechanized ground forces in close coordination
Dachshund	Dachshund	(N) any of a breed of long-bodied, short-legged dogs of German origin that occur in short-haired, long-haired, and wirehaired varieties
Doppelgänger	Doppelgänger	(N) 1 a ghostly counterpart of a living person 2 a person who has the same name as another
Fest	Fest	(N) a gathering, event, or show having a specified focus <a music fest>
Gestalt	Gestalt	(N) a structure, configuration, or pattern of physical, biological, or psychological phenomena so integrated as to constitute a functional unit with properties not derivable by summation of its parts
Gesundheit	Gesundheit	(Interj) used to wish good health especially to one who has just sneezed
Glitch	Glitschig	(N) 1 a usually minor malfunction 2 a minor problem that causes a temporary setback 3 a false or spurious electronic signal
Kaput	Kaputt	(Adj) 1 utterly finished, defeated, or destroyed 2 unable to function
Kindergarten	Kindergarten	(N) a school or class for children usually from four to six years old
Kitsch	Kitsch	(N) something that appeals to popular or lowbrow taste and is often of poor quality (Adj) a tacky or lowbrow quality or condition
Leitmotiv	Leitmotiv	(N) 1 an associated melodic phrase or figure that accompanies the reappearance of an idea, person, or situation especially in a Wagnerian music drama 2 a dominant recurring theme
Neanderthal	Neanderthaler	(N) a hominid (Homo neanderthalensis syn H. sapiens neanderthalensis) known from skeletal remains in Europe, northern Africa, and western Asia that lived from about 30,000 to 200,000 years ago
Poltergeist	Poltergeist	(N) a noisy usually mischievous ghost held to be responsible for unexplained noises (as rappings)
Rucksack	Rucksack	(N) a bag (as of canvas or nylon) strapped on the back and used for carrying supplies or personal belongings
Schadenfreude	Schadenfreude	(N) enjoyment obtained from the troubles of others
Über	Über	(Pre) 1 being a superlative example of its kind or CLASS 2 to an extreme or excessive degree
Verboten	Verboten	(Adj) Forbidden; especially : prohibited by dictate
Waltz	Walzer	(N) a ballroom dance in $\frac{3}{4}$ time with strong accent on the first beat and a basic pattern of step-step-close
Wanderlust	Wanderlust	(N) strong longing for or impulse toward wandering
Wunderbar	Wunderbar	(Adj) Wonderful
Zeitgeist	Zeitgeist	(N) the general intellectual, moral, and cultural climate of an era
Zeppelin	Zeppelin	(N) a rigid airship consisting of a cylindrical trussed and covered frame supported by internal gas cells

What German **loanword** is described in each sentence?

1. The student had a burning desire to travel throughout Europe.
2. The Goodyear blimp equipped with a camera circles above many sporting venues and allows us to get an aerial view of the event.
3. This early man takes its name from the German valley where the third fossil specimen was discovered.
4. Composer John Williams composed recurrent Wagnerian-like themes for Luke, Princess Leia, Darth Vader, Yoda and even the Jawas in his score for *Star Wars*.
5. Children learn “not to hit other children,” to “wait your turn,” to “raise your hand when you need to be excused to go to the bathroom.”
6. In the Harry Potter books, Peeves is this type of supernatural creature.
7. Placing garden gnomes and pink flamingoes on one’s lawn are often regarded as examples of this low-brow art form.
8. The failure of a computing device to complete its functions or to perform them properly.
9. The waiter drops a tray with food to be served and the people in the restaurant begin to laugh at his clumsiness.
10. During the Presidential election season, an intense media campaign was focused on young voters.

Answer Key:

1. Wanderlust
2. Zeppelin
3. Neanderthal
4. Leitmotif
5. Kindergarten
6. Poltergeist
7. Kitsch
8. Glitch
9. Schadenfreude
10. Blitz

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