

Intrepid Travel Language Guides

German Language Guide Script

For those of you keen to have a written version on the language lesson, here is the script below:

Anna: Vorsicht!

Scott: Oh... sorry! Do you speak English... it's kinda squashed in here, there's not really anywhere to move....

Anna : Ja, Of course I do. Take off your backpack and you will have more room ja?!

Scott: Ok, Ok... Gee and I thought this was supposed to be the Love Weekend...

Anna: Are you going to the Love Parade?

Scott: Ja!

Anna: Where are you from?

Scott: Australia. Are you going?

Anna: Ja – we will travel together! Is this your first festival?

Scott: Ja (smiling now) and you?

Anna: Nein, this will be my second time. You will love it – you love techno ja?

Scott: Ja! Hey, since we're squashed together here and going to the same place – would you mind helping me with some German – I think I'm going to need a bit to make some new friends over the next few days...

Anna: Ja, Freund or Freundin?

Scott: Umm...?

Anna: Boyfriend or girlfriend – it is after all the LoveParade!

Scott: ah... definitely girlfriend.... And you??

Anna: Freund... boyfriend

Scott: Ja...ok, so how do I ask a persons name?

Anna: You say Wie heissen sie?

Scott: Wie heissen sie? How do I answer?

Anna: Ich heiße Anna

Scott: Hi Anna, Ich heiße Scott. Do you come here often?

Anna: Nein. No – why?

Scott: It was a joke – sort of bad flirting really...

Anna: Ahh, I see – well, I prefer the German style of flirting – a bit more direct!

Scott: Yeah, I've heard that about Germans! Direct, to the point! So the point is some German phrases. How about some greetings, like Hello, Goodbye and all that...

Anna: Hallo, wie geht's – that is Hello, how are you?

Scott: Hallo, wie geht's ?

Anna: Mir geht es gut I am fine

Scott: Mir geht es gut. How about Good Morning and Good Night?

Anna: Guten Tag / Gute Nacht - you will not need Gute Nacht for the next few days, there are parties all weekend, most clubs are open 24 hours!

Scott: Ok, so just Guten Tag then! How do I say I am from Australia – this may help with my flirting!

Anna: This is Ich komme aus Australien and maybe if you were Russell Crowe it would help more!

Scott: Ouch! Ich komme aus Australien

Anna: Ja. You might also say Ich reise durch Deutschland – which is I am travelling through Germany.

Scott: Ich reise durch Deutschland! What about please, thank you and excuse me – which you might have said earlier!

Anna: Please is bitte, thank you is danke and excuse me is Entschuldigung – YOU should have said this as you bumped into me!

Scott: Bitte, danke and Entschuldigung (emphasise this). Lets agree to disagree on the bumping! I know, can you tell me how to say bus, train, tram and ticket?

Anna: Ja, bus is bus, train is zug

Scott: Zug

Anna: Tram or street-car is Straßenbahn

Scott: Straßenbahn

Anna: Ticket is Karte. There are different kinds of Karte, like weekend specials or short trip ticket make sure you ask before you buy. Do you know much about the LoveParade?

Scott: Only really that it's a huge street parade and techno party – I think it's been going for a few years...

Anna: Ja, but that is only half the story. The first parade was in Berlin in 1989 a few months before the fall of the Berlin Wall. It was started by dj Dr Motte as a demonstration of peace and international understanding. The first parade had only 1 truck and 150 people, the next year there were 2000 people and 6 trucks and it has grown and grown since then. Except in 2004 and 2005 when it was cancelled for lack of funding but now it is huge – last year there were about a million people all dancing together for the parade and party.

Scott: I can't wait! I've never been to such a huge dance-party before!

Anna: Ja, this is the largest techno event anywhere in the World! Other cities have hosted LoveParades like Mexico City, San Francisco, Vienna and even Sydney – that was in 1997, I think.

Scott: Not sure how I missed that one – but no matter I'll make up for it this weekend! Now that I'm psyched about the parade, can we leave our history lesson and skip back to our language lesson for a second... how do I say today, tomorrow and now?

Anna: Ja, ok I get it history is boring. Today is heute – Did I mention there is an anthem for the Parade each year? Last year was Love is Everywhere, this year is Highway to Love...

Scott: Heute. Tomorrow is??

Anna: Morgen. At the first LoveParade Dr Motte gave a speech and a yoga instructor lead a chant....

Scott: Morgen. And how do I say now?

Anna: Jetzt. You are so dull!

Scott: Jetzt. What about yesterday?

Anna: This is gestern

Scott: Gestern. C'mon I've got to learn some German before I start partying! At last

years LoveParade did you follow one truck or just watch the whole parade?

Anna: I stayed with the Ministry of Sound Truck then at the end we danced near the stage, it was mad. What will you do?

Scott: I haven't decided yet. I'm on my own so I thought I'd take it as it comes, maybe I'll stick with you for a bit if that's ok?

Anna: Ja, sure. I am meeting some friends near the Westfalenhallen later and another friend is a parade marshall so we will all meet later. You can come too. Have you seen the stage cube? It is amazing – just wait, the show is unlike anything you've ever seen!

Scott: Fantastic! Ok, so I'm going to need some more German then, how about some food stuff like "water please" and "how much?"

Anna: You mean tap water? Not many Germans drink water from the tap, we drink sparkling or bottled water. You will have to be specific when you ask for water, in fact you may have to insist. How much is Wie viel?

Scott: Wie viel?

Anna: Water please is Wasser, bitte

Scott: Wasser, bitte. What about beer? I'm in the home of beer and sausages after all! How do I say Lager please? I suspect we're going to have one or three of these today!

Anna: This is Ein Bier, bitte and normally you would have Bierwurst to go with it – this is a cold sausage.

Scott: Like salami?

Anna: Ja, sort of but German.

Scott: I think I'd better come back to Germany for Oktoberfest and do some thorough research into beer and sausages! This weekend is about techno! Speaking of which, I know the Parade is free but the rest of the weekend is going to be a drain on my finances, how do I say "too expensive"

Anna: It's too expensive Das ist zu teuer

Scott: Das ist zu teuer What about "where is" and "which way to?"

Anna: Where is Wo ist

Scott: Wo ist

Anna: Which way to Wo lang geht es nach. But you should be ok, you will be with me after all!

Scott: Wo lang geht es nach. Now things are probably going to get very messy, luckily I've got insurance, but what about police, hospital and doctor?

Anna: LoveParade is a very safe festival and I've taught you how to ask for water! But... police is Polizei

Scott: Polizei

Anna: Hospital is Krankenhaus

Scott: Krankenhaus doesn't sound very comforting!

Anna: Doctor is Arzt

Scott: Arzt. Now if I do get into trouble how do I say "I don't understand, please speak slowly"

Anna: This is Ich verstehe sie nicht, bitte sprechen sie langsam

Scott: Ich verstehe sie nicht, bitte sprechen sie langsam. What about "I like this"

Anna: You mean us talking or do you want me to translate?

Scott: Well, both really!

Anna: This is Ich mag das

Scott: Ich mag das. Now don't take this the wrong way, purely for my own research, what about "I don't like this"

Anna: This is Ich mag das nicht

Scott: Ich mag das nicht. Again, for research only what about "Have you a room" and "May I see it"

Anna: Well, most likely a German would have booked a room in advance! We are very organised and plan things properly. But, for you – Have you a room is Haben sie ein freies Zimmer?

Scott: Haben sie ein freies Zimmer?

Anna: May I see it is Könnte ich es sehen?

Scott: Könnte ich es sehen?. How many more stops?

Anna: this is Wie viele Stationen noch?

Scott: No, I meant how many more stops until we get there?

Anna: Oh, not many, just three!

Scott: Right, well lucky I've only got a few more things I'd like you to teach me... I sort of remember the numbers from school but can you tell me how to count to ten.

Anna: Eins, zwei, drei, vier, fünf, sechs, sieben, acht, neun, zehn.

Scott: Ok, ok.. not quite that quickly... it was eins, zwei, drei....

Anna: vier fünf sechs

Scott: vier fünf sechs

Anna: sieben acht neun zehn

Scott: sieben acht neun zehn

Anna: Very good!

Scott: Danke! I'm a fast learner! Now two final things before we hit the streets – The Bill and Can you please help me!

Anna: The Bill is Die Rechnung

Scott: Die Rechnung

Anna: Can you please help me – Könnten sie mir bitte helfen?

Scott: Könnten sie mir bitte helfen?

Anna: Ja, very good!

Scott: Anna, you have been so helpful in such squashy conditions and I've rudely not even commented on your outfit... you look pretty fantastic, you will have no problem with finding friend's in that!

Anna: Ja, I call it Bay Watch meets Run Lola Run – it is nice no?

Scott: Ja, it is nice!