

Year 7 German Induction Challenge:

You know more German than you realise!



German and English are very closely related languages – known as sister languages – because they originated from the same parent language (Germanic).

Because of this there are lots of similarities in vocabulary, which helps a lot when learning a new language.

Words which are identical in spelling and meaning between two languages are called cognates. Words which are very similar are called near-cognates.

TASK 1: read the text about Karl very carefully!



Das ist Karl. Er ist 16 Jahre alt und lebt in Berlin.

Karls Vater ist Mechaniker und seine Mutter ist Doktor.

Karl hat einen Bruder, Peter, und eine Schwester, Maria.

Peter ist 19 Jahre alt und ist Student an der Universität. Er studiert Physik und Biologie.

Maria ist 7 Jahre alt. Sie ist das Baby in Karls Familie.

Karls Hobbys sind Fussball, Volleyball und Theater. Ist das nicht eine interessante Kombination?

Karl ist sportlich, intelligent und tolerant.

Karl isst gern Pizza, Spaghetti, Sauerkraut und Schokolade. Ist das nicht eine interessante Kombination?

Peter hat einen Hund, Schnüffel und Maria hat eine Katze, Gretel. Und Karl? Er hat einen Fisch, Flossi und eine Maus, Mausi.

Eine Katze und eine Maus im Haus? Ja, das ist o.k. Gretel ist dumm und Mausi ist intelligent.

TASK 2: read the text again! In the grid below, fill in the words which you consider to be COGNATES (what does that mean again? Check above) and words which you think are NEAR-COGNATES.



COGNATES	NEAR-COGNATES
	ist = <i>is</i>

TASK 3: read the text again! And answer the questions below in English.



1. How many pets does Karl's family have?
2. List the pets and their names
3. Why is it OK that they have a mouse and a cat in the house?
4. What does Karl like to eat?

5. What is Karl's personality like?
6. What are Karl's hobbies?
7. How old is the youngest member of Karl's family?
8. What does Karl's oldest brother study at university?
9. What does Karl's father do for a living?
10. And his mother?
11. In which German city does Karl live? Whereabouts in Germany is it?
Look at the map at the back of the classroom – look for the big
arrows!

TASK 4: Now, **without** using a dictionary or any other resources, translate the text into English. You will be amazed at what you can do using your notes from Task 1 and your answers from Task 2! Don't give up and don't leave any blanks!

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TASK 5: Now try to write a few sentences about TOBIAS using the Karl text as your guide and the vocabulary provided below:

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His name & age: Tobias, 12

Lives in: Hamburg

Mother: Pilotin

Father: Bäcker

Little sister, 5 years old: Katja

Older brother, 15 years old: Friedrich

Hobbies: Tischtennis und schwimmen

Food he likes: Pommes und Eis

