

# Troublesome Translations



For native German speakers, finding the right translation, from German to English or vice versa, can sometimes be a challenge. Here are some examples to help you figure out how to say certain words. And to make sure you keep yourself out of trouble.

## Practise or practice?

You may have to *practise* the difference between *practise* and *practice* before you get it right. In British English, *practise* is the verb, meaning 'to perform in order to improve', 'to carry out', or 'to be engaged in a particular occupation'. For example, 'He sat down to *practise* scales on the piano' or 'She has been *practising* law for three years.' Tip: if you can put **to** before it, it's the verb.

*Practice*, meanwhile, is the noun. This might mean a rehearsal or run-through, the act of doing something, or a customary action. For example, 'I need a *practice* session before my piano recital' or 'She was skilled in the *practice* of law.' Tip: if you can put **a** or **the** before it, it's a noun.

In American English, *practice* is both the verb and the noun.

1. I want to \_\_\_\_\_ my English so that I can become a more confident speaker. (Ich möchte mein Englisch üben, um ein selbstbewusster Sprecher zu werden.)
2. I need some writing \_\_\_\_\_ for my English exam. (Ich brauche etwas Schreibpraxis für meine Englischprüfung.)
3. It is common \_\_\_\_\_ to exchange gifts at Christmas. (Es ist üblich, zu Weihnachten Geschenke auszutauschen.)
4. She is a doctor at a private medical \_\_\_\_\_, while he works for a large legal \_\_\_\_\_ in London. (Sie ist Ärztin in einer privaten Arztpraxis, während er für eine große Anwaltskanzlei in London arbeitet.)

## Shade or shadow?

You may wonder when you should use *shade* or *shadow* in English. The *shade* is the area away from direct sunlight. It's the darker, cooler area when it's too bright and too hot in the sun. For example, 'I want to lie in the *shade*, out of the sun.'

*Shade* also refers to slight differences in colours or tints, such as the famous novel by E.L. James, *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

A *shadow* is the dark shape made on a surface when a person or an object stands in the way of a source of light, such as the sun.

1. It's hot today. The weather forecast says the temperature will reach 35 degrees in the \_\_\_\_\_! (Heute ist es heiß. Die Wettervorhersage sagt, dass die Temperatur 35 Grad im Schatten erreichen wird!)
2. As the sun goes down, you can watch the \_\_\_\_\_ change shape. (Wenn die Sonne untergeht, können Sie beobachten, wie die Schatten ihre Form verändern.)
3. On days like this, the best thing to do is to find a cool place in the \_\_\_\_\_ to relax. (An Tagen wie diesen sucht man sich am besten ein kühles Plätzchen im Schatten, um zu entspannen.)
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ appeared in the darkness, frightening Lucy. (Ein Schatten erschien in der Dunkelheit und erschreckte Lucy.)
5. My dog is afraid of his own \_\_\_\_\_. (Mein Hund hat Angst vor seinem eigenen Schatten.)

The solutions are on page 34.