

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.

The UK, Great Britain or England?

Germans sometimes mistakenly call *Great Britain* by its largest country, namely 'England'. That's a bit like calling Germany 'North Rhine Westphalia'!

It's incorrect, and it risks offending millions of Scots and Welsh who also live in *Britain* and have their own identity, language, legal system and sports teams.

Great Britain is comprised of the countries of England, Scotland and Wales, as well as the adjoining islands that they administer, such as the Isle of Wight. Politically, Great Britain and Northern Ireland together constitute the United Kingdom, or the UK. Ireland, meanwhile, is politically divided between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The British Isles, meanwhile, is made up of Britain and Ireland and over six thousand smaller isles. Got it?

1. **Keir Starmer** is currently the Prime Minister of _____.
2. The Six Nations Championship is an international rugby union competition between the teams of France, Italy, Ireland, England, _____ and _____.
3. Saint Patrick's Day is celebrated in _____, while St. David's Day is celebrated in _____. Saint George is the patron saint of _____, and St Andrew is the patron saint of _____.

Bare or bear?

Let's get down to bare facts: don't confuse *bare* with *bear*. Something *bare* is uncovered, unclothed or exposed.

To *bear* means to carry or support something; the noun *bear* is a wild animal.

1. He could hardly _____ the pain after breaking his leg. (Er konnte den Schmerz kaum ertragen, nachdem er sich das Bein gebrochen hatte.)
2. Close your eyes and enjoy the sensation of your _____ feet in the warm sand. (Schließen Sie Ihre Augen und genießen Sie das Gefühl Ihrer nackten Füße im warmen Sand.)
3. Wild _____ live in many places in Canada. (Wildbären leben in vielen Orten in Kanada.)

The solutions are on page 35.