

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.

Brav in German versus brave in English

Bravo if you already know the difference between *brav* in German and *brave* in English. Despite their similar spellings, *brave* is completely unrelated to the German word *brav*, meaning 'well behaved' in English.

The adjective *brave* means courageous, showing no fear of dangerous or difficult things, beings, or situations. For example, 'You were *brave* and strong when you fought that battle.'

As a verb, *to brave* means to endure difficult conditions or a challenging situation without showing any fear. For example, 'She decided to brave the bad weather and go for a walk.' The noun for courageous behaviour is *bravery*.

1. He became _____ in the face of danger, despite his meek appearance. (Trotz seines sanften Aussehens wurde es angesichts der Gefahr mutig.)
2. His _____ deed earned him the respect of his fellow soldiers. Afterwards they christened him the _____ soldier who ever lived. (Seine mutige Tat brachte ihm den Respekt seiner Mitsoldaten ein. Danach taufte sie ihn den tapfersten Soldaten, der je gelebt hat.)
3. He _____ the cold to jump into the water and save the little girl! (Er trotzte der Kälte, um ins Wasser zu springen und das kleine Mädchen zu retten!)
4. Ancient people like to tell stories of _____. (Alte Menschen erzählen gerne Geschichten über Tapferkeit.)

Branche in German versus branch in English

Next, let's take a closer look at *Branche* and *branch*. As we all know, the German word *Branche* refers to a sector or line of business. The English word *branch*, meanwhile, has several meanings.

Firstly, it can refer to the part of a tree that grows out from the trunk or from a bough. For example, 'The *branch* of the tree broke off.'

Branch can also mean a section or subdivision or a part of something bigger. For instance, 'The president is part of the executive *branch* of the government.'

In the same way, the word can also refer to one of the offices or groups that form part of a larger organization. For example, 'She is a *branch* manager.' As a verb, *to branch* means to divide into separate parts. For example, 'The main road *branches* off to the left.'

1. The company has announced the closure of several of its rural _____. (Das Unternehmen hat die Schließung mehrerer ländlicher Niederlassungen angekündigt.)
2. One _____ of their family emigrated to Brazil. The rest remained in the US. (Ein Zweig ihrer Familie wanderte nach Brasilien aus. Der Rest blieb in den USA.)
3. We came to a place where the road _____ into two lanes. (Wir kamen an einen Ort, an dem die Straße zweispurig abzweigte.)

The solutions are on page 34.