

# 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.

## Hear, listen or overhear?

Listen up: there are importance differences between *hear*, *listen* and *overhear*. We use *hear* to refer to sounds that come into our ears. As soon as we wake up and walk around, we *hear* things.

When we *listen*, we try to *hear*. We pay attention and try to understand every sound. For instance, 'I'm *listening* but I can't *hear* anything.'

Meanwhile, *overhear* is when you hear something without the speaker knowing it. For example, 'Did he *overhear* her conversation with Jacob?'

1. She glanced nervously in the direction of the door, as she feared that her mother might \_\_\_\_\_ the conversation. (Sie warf einen nervösen Blick in Richtung Tür, da sie befürchtete, dass ihre Mutter das Gespräch mithören könnte.)

2. Can you speak louder please? I can't \_\_\_\_\_ you with all that noise in the background. (Kannst du bitte lauter sprechen? Mit all den Geräuschen im Hintergrund kann ich dich nicht hören.)

3. \_\_\_\_\_ to this song. Can you understand the meaning behind the words? (Hör dir dieses Lied an. Kannst du die Bedeutung hinter den Worten verstehen?)

## Remember or remind?

Try to remember the difference between *remember* and *remind*. These two verbs can cause confusion among English learners.

Here's the difference: to *remember* is to bring something to your mind again. For example, 'Remember to turn off the stove before you leave the house.'

To *remind* is to cause someone to *remember* something. For example, 'The heat *reminds* me of last year's summer holiday in Greece.'

1. He needs someone to \_\_\_\_\_ him that there is more to life than work. (Er braucht jemanden, der ihn daran erinnert, dass es mehr im Leben gibt, als nur Arbeit.)

2. The short time together had been enough to \_\_\_\_\_ her just how strong the bond was between them. (Die kurze Zeit zu zweit hatte sie daran erinnert, wie stark die Verbindung zwischen ihnen war.)

3. Did you \_\_\_\_\_ to lock the door before you left for work? (Hatten Sie daran gedacht, die Tür zu verschließen, bevor Sie zur Arbeit gingen?)

The solutions are on page 35.