

# 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 it. And to make sure you keep yourself out of trouble.

## entschuldigen

The German *entschuldigen* (*Entschuldigung*) can mean several different things in English, such as excuse (*Entschuldigung im Voraus bei z.B. Störung*), apologise (*um Verzeihung bitten*), sorry (*Entschuldigung nach der Tat*) or pardon (*um Wiederholung bitten bei Nichtverstehen*).

Use the exercises below to test your own knowledge.

1. Entschuldigen Sie, dass ich so spät bin!

I'm \_\_\_\_\_ for being so late!

I \_\_\_\_\_ for being so late!

2. Entschuldigen Sie bitte, wo finde ich eine Apotheke hier in der Nähe?

\_\_\_\_\_ me, where can I find a chemist nearby?

3. Entschuldigen Sie, wenn ich Sie unterbreche, aber...

\_\_\_\_\_ me for interrupting you, but...

4. Entschuldigen Sie bitte, was haben Sie gerade gesagt?

\_\_\_\_\_ me, what did you just say?

\_\_\_\_\_, what did you just say?

5. Entschuldige, wenn ich dich beleidigt habe.

I \_\_\_\_\_ if I offended you.

## Rezept

The German noun *Rezept* is sometimes confused with several English words:

*prescription, recipe, receipt, reception*

Use the English words to determine if the sample sentences are right or wrong.

1. The doctor gave me a recipe for a painkiller.

☐ Right

☐ Wrong

2. Do you have a good prescription for spaghetti Bolognese?

☐ Right

☐ Wrong

3. I'll meet you at the reception at 8:00 am sharp.

☐ Right

☐ Wrong

4. What is your prescription for success?

☐ Right

☐ Wrong

5. Save your receipt in case you need to return the merchandise.

☐ Right

☐ Wrong

The solutions are on page 38.