

## Only a penny

I was waiting at the supermarket checkout. The woman in front of me had lots of things in her cart. She was very careful and checked the prices on the screen when the assistant passed them over the scanner. A pair of tights was 99p. The woman stopped the assistant. "That's wrong!" she said. "They're on offer this week for 98p." The assistant wasn't sure, so she called the manager. The manager called back five minutes later and said the woman was correct. So the assistant finished scanning the woman's shopping. When the total price appeared on the screen, the woman paid with some notes. As the assistant was giving her the change, a penny fell out of her hand and rolled onto the floor. The assistant got down on her knees to look for it. "Oh, don't worry about it," the woman told her. "It's only a penny."

## Task 1

Read the text and find the English equivalents of the following German words and phrases.

1. Kasse \_\_\_\_\_

2. Einkaufswagen \_\_\_\_\_

3. Bildschirm \_\_\_\_\_

4. Strumpfhose \_\_\_\_\_

5. im Angebot \_\_\_\_\_

6. Einkäufe \_\_\_\_\_

7. Gesamtsumme \_\_\_\_\_

8. Geldscheine \_\_\_\_\_

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## Task 2

Read the text again and then tick (✓) the endings which complete the statements correctly.

1. The woman in front checked
  - a) the weight of everything.
  - b) the cost of everything.
  - c) the date of everything.
2. The assistant called the manager because
  - a) it was the manager's job to check prices.
  - b) she thought the woman was wrong.
  - c) she didn't know if the woman was right.
3. The woman paid
  - a) with a credit card.
  - b) cash.
  - c) with a cheque.
4. There are
  - a) ten pennies in a pound.
  - b) one hundred pennies in a pound.
  - c) two hundred and forty pennies in a pound.
5. The checkout is where you
  - a) can check the prices of your shopping.
  - b) pay for the things in your cart.
  - c) can weigh fruit and vegetables.
6. A scanner
  - a) prints the price on a label.
  - b) copies the price on a label.
  - c) reads the price on a label.
7. The price is
  - a) what you pay for something.
  - b) something that you win.
  - c) money that you get back.
8. An assistant is somebody who works in
  - a) a factory.
  - b) an office.
  - c) a shop.
9. The manager in the text is somebody who
  - a) is in charge of a small business.
  - b) looks after the business affairs of a pop group.
  - c) trains a football team.

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## A good trick!

### Task

Read the text and find out what the words and phrases below mean in German. Tick (✓) the correct answer. Be careful: the meaning in the text isn't always the 'usual' meaning.

Andy Douglas wasn't the world's best magician. In fact, he wasn't really very good at all. Andy knew this himself. He was only a mediocre magician, but that was good enough. He worked on a small cruise ship and he had been doing the same show for ten years. The audiences liked him and were satisfied with the show. There was a new audience almost every week and so Andy didn't have to try out new material. He had been churning out the same old tricks for ten years.

But not everyone in the audience was happy. Near the stage was a big cage with a parrot in it. Its name was Einstein because it was so clever. Einstein had watched every one of Andy's shows for ten years and had worked out all the tricks. He had also started to give them away to the audience. When Andy made a bouquet of flowers disappear, the parrot would sing out: "Behind his back! Behind his back!"

This made Andy really mad, but he couldn't fight back because not only was the parrot popular with the audiences and the crew but it also belonged to the captain of the cruise ship. Andy just had to grin and put up with it.

One day in the Caribbean there was a big storm and the cruise ship ran onto a reef and sank. Andy swam to a broken mast and hung on. The parrot was also on the mast. Einstein and Andy stared at each other and Einstein stepped back out of Andy's reach. Neither of them said a word for two days. On the morning of the third day the parrot looked at the magician and said, "OK. I give up! Where did you hide the ship?"

1. *magician*  
 a) Zauber  
 b) Hexer  
 c) Zauberer

2. *mediocre*  
 a) mittelgroß  
 b) mittelmäßig  
 c) mittellos

3. *audience*  
 a) Zuhörer  
 b) Zuschauer

4. *to try something out*  
 a) etwas ausprobieren  
 b) etwas versprechen

## Computer freaks

### Task 1

As you read the story, make a list of all the words you don't understand. Then compare your list with other people's lists. Perhaps you can help each other?

Ted and Bill were both Computer Science students at an American university. As they were leaving a lecture, Ted noticed that Bill had a new bike. He knew that Bill didn't have any money, so he asked him where he had got it.

"Well, you just won't believe this," Bill replied, "I was sitting alone in the park and working with my laptop when this really beautiful woman rode up on a bike and stopped in front of me. She jumped off her bike, took off all her clothes and told me I could have anything I wanted."

Ted admired Bill's new bike and said, "You made a good choice, Bill. Her clothes probably wouldn't have fit\* you anyway."

\* AE: have fit, BE: have fitted

### Task 2

Which words or phrases in the text could be replaced by the words or phrases below?

1. Information Technology (IT) \_\_\_\_\_

2. United States (U.S.) \_\_\_\_\_

3. bicycle \_\_\_\_\_

4. was broke \_\_\_\_\_

5. answered \_\_\_\_\_

6. by myself \_\_\_\_\_

7. pulled \_\_\_\_\_

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**I'm fine!****Task 1**

As you read the story, make a list of all the words you don't understand. Then compare your list with other people's lists. Perhaps you can help each other?

A farmer was riding his horse along a country lane. His dog was running in front of him. As they reached a bend, a police car suddenly appeared. It was going very fast. The driver braked hard, but ran into the dog and the horse. When the farmer opened his eyes, he was lying in a ditch and in great pain. He looked up. A policeman was getting out of the car. He went over to the dog, which was howling horribly. There was a shot. Then the policeman went to the horse. There was another shot. The police officer came over to the farmer. The gun in his hand was still smoking. "How are you feeling, sir?" he asked the farmer. With a tremendous effort the farmer lifted his head and smiled, "Good morning, Officer. I'm fine, thanks. In fact, I've never felt better in my life!"

**Task 2**

Find the examples from the text of the following tenses. Avoid (*vermeide*) repetitions.

SIMPLE PAST

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_

## Four engineers

### Task 1

Read the text and find the English equivalents of the German words below.

There are four people in a car. They're all engineers, but aren't the same kind. Suddenly the engine stutters and the car stops. The mechanical engineer says, "It must be the gearbox." But the chemical engineer says, "No, it isn't. It's the carburettor. The petrol is dirty." The electrical engineer says, "No. The gearbox and the carburettor are OK. They aren't the problem. I'm not sure, but I think the battery is dead." The computer engineer says, "You're all wrong. It's none of those things. We must all get out of the car and enter again."

1. Art \_\_\_\_\_

2. Benzin \_\_\_\_\_

3. Chemieingenieur \_\_\_\_\_

4. Computertechniker \_\_\_\_\_

5. Elektroingenieur \_\_\_\_\_

6. Getriebe \_\_\_\_\_

7. keine \_\_\_\_\_

8. Maschinenbauingenieur \_\_\_\_\_

9. Motor \_\_\_\_\_

10. Vergaser \_\_\_\_\_

**Culture clash!****Task 1**

Read the English text and then put the German translation into the correct order.

1. My aunt Megan was a tax accountant.
  2. She and a colleague were once in Miami at a conference for accountants.
  3. It was the first morning of the conference.
  4. They were in their best office clothes: dark costumes, white blouses and sensible black shoes.
  5. But everyone else was in colourful T-shirts and Bermuda shorts!
  6. Aunt Megan wasn't happy.
  7. If these people weren't in the wrong room, then they were!
  8. And then they heard a very loud American voice.
  9. "Hey! You must be the two British accountants!"
- A. Sie und eine Kollegin waren einmal in Miami bei einer Konferenz für Steuerberater.  
B. Wenn diese Leute nicht im falschen Raum waren, dann waren sie es!  
C. Meine Tante Megan war Steuerberaterin.  
D. Und dann hörten sie eine sehr laute amerikanische Stimme.  
E. Sie trugen ihre beste Bürokleidung: dunkle Kostüme, weiße Blusen und dazu passende schwarze Schuhe.  
F. „Hey! Sie müssen die beiden britischen Steuerberater sein!“  
G. Es war einmal in Miami bei einer Konferenz.

**Task 1:**

- |                |                           |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. checkout    | 2. cart                   | 3. screen                 |
| 4. tights      | 5. on offer               | 6. shopping               |
| 7. total price | 8. notes                  | 9. change                 |
| 10. floor      | 11. got down on her knees | 12. Don't worry about it. |

**Task 2:**

- |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. b | 2. c | 3. b | 4. b |
| 5. b | 6. c | 7. a | 8. c |
| 9. a |      |      |      |

**Task:**

- |      |       |       |      |
|------|-------|-------|------|
| 1. I | 2. G  | 3. H  | 4. B |
| 5. K | 6. A  | 7. D  | 8. J |
| 9. C | 10. F | 11. E |      |

**Task 1:**

- |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. b | 2. a | 3. c | 4. b |
| 5. b | 6. c |      |      |

**Task 2:**

- |              |               |                       |          |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------|
| 1. difficult | 2. dictionary | 3. sentence           | 4. spell |
| 5. none      | 6. smiled     | 7. fallen from a tree |          |

**Task 3:**

- |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|
| 1. b | 3. c | 4. a |
| 5. c | 7. b | 8. c |
| 9. a |      |      |

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**Task 1:**

Individual solutions

**Task 2:**

- |                     |             |            |                          |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Computer Science | 2. American | 3. bike    | 4. didn't have any money |
| 5. replied          | 6. alone    | 7. stopped | 8. jumped off            |
| 9. took off         | 10. clothes | 11. told   | 12. wanted               |

**Task 3:**

- |           |          |             |
|-----------|----------|-------------|
| 1. notice | 2. leave | 3. take off |
|-----------|----------|-------------|

**Task 1:**

Individual solutions

**Task 2:**

- |                     |                 |                 |               |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. reached          | 2. appeared     | 3. braked       | 4. ran        |
| 5. opened           | 6. looked up    | 7. went         | 8. was        |
| 9. came             | 10. asked       | 11. lifted      | 12. smiled    |
| 13. was riding      | 14. was running | 15. was going   | 16. was lying |
| 17. was getting out | 18. was howling | 19. was smoking |               |
| 20. 've felt        |                 |                 |               |

**Task 1:**

- |                      |                        |                      |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. kind              | 2. petrol              | 3. chemical engineer |
| 4. computer engineer | 5. electrical engineer | 6. gearbox           |
| 7. none              | 8. mechanical engineer | 9. engine            |
| 10. carburettor      |                        |                      |

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