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Chapter 1 : Britannia and Germania

The stories of both England and Germany began with the same man: Julius Caesar (100-44 BC). He was a Roman politician, general and bestselling author who exerted enormous influence over his followers. When he conquered Gaul (now France), he wanted to go farther and invade the neighbouring lands too, but he first had to name them. He could see that there was land east of the river Rhine (der Rhein), which he named *Germania*. There was more land north across the Channel (der Kanal), which he named *Britannia*. Caesar then personally led invasions into both these new lands (das Land), but the locals were tough and fought back, fiercely. Caesar had to withdraw which was a bit of a setback for him. So he did what a modern influencer would do: he left bad reviews. In his books (das Buch) and propaganda (die Propaganda), he complained about everything: the weather (das Wetter), the clothes (too revealing), the food (too much meat) and even about the Germans swimming naked (nackt) in rivers. He reminded everyone that France (Gaul) was much nicer and that he had conquered it. He went on to spend the rest (der Rest) of his life well away from both Germania and Britannia, which was probably for the best.



A bit more about Caesar... he was not a healthy man. He suffered from seizures, possibly due to an infection in the brain by a tapeworm, but he did not let that stop him. He took charge of the Roman Republic and of the strongest military of his time. He became so powerful that his name survives in the German word for emperor: der Kaiser¹. He even had his face painted red for a triumphal procession, like the statue of Jupiter, the Roman chief god.

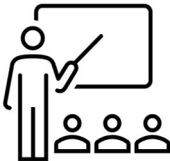
¹ Kaiser is how you pronounce Caesar in Latin.

He wasn't an emperor though, just a humble dictator (der Diktator).

Caesar was a womaniser too. He was married three times and had many mistresses, the most famous of them was Cleopatra VII of Egypt. When they started dating, she moved into a villa (die Villa) close to Rome where she hosted fancy parties (die Party) for Caesar and his friends (der Freund).

Caesar died at the age of 55 when he was stabbed to death by a group of angry senators on the *Ides of March* (15 March). Caesar's last words supposedly expressed his shock (der Schock) at being betrayed by his best friend: *And you, Brutus?* (Und du, Brutus?). I say *supposedly* because it was William Shakespeare who made them up.

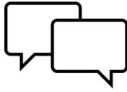
Whatever his last words were, Caesar's death caused several civil wars which claimed the lives of both Brutus and Cleopatra. When her army was defeated, the Egyptian queen killed herself using snake poison. In the end, Caesar's nephew (der Neffe), Augustus (63–14 AD), took over as the Roman Kaiser, but soon found that Caesar had left unfinished business in *Germania*.



ä, ö, ü and ß

The German alphabet (das Alphabet) includes an extra letter: ß (sz). It also includes three Umlaute: ä (ae), ö (oe) and ü (ue).

If you use the diminutive *chen*, then you may have to use an Umlaut too. So Hund (dog) becomes Hündchen (puppy), Katze (cat) becomes Kätzchen (kitten) and Blume (flower) becomes Blümchen. Rose becomes Röschen, so Sleeping Beauty is Dornröschen (lit. little thorny rose).



Guten Tag!

[Admin] ²	Hallo sagen!	Saying hello!
J.Cäsar	Hey, Leute! 嘿, 人们! ^	Hi, people! 嘿, 人们! ^
J.Bach	Grüß dich. ³	Hello!
Alfred	Hallo. Lange nicht gesehen. ⁴	Hello. Long time no see.
SchneeW	Hallöchen. ⁵ ♥	Hello there. ♥
Ludwig2	Grüß Gott! ⁶	Hello!
HSchmidt	Mahlzeit! ⁷	Hello, everyone!
S.Graf	Na du. (* · ∀ ·) / ^	Hey you. (* · ∀ ·) / ^
A.Merkel	Schön dich zu sehen.	Nice to see you.
HSchmidt	Moin! ⁸	Hello!
Brutus	Hallo mein Freund.	Hello my friend.
J.Cäsar	Hey Brutus. 嘿(嘿嘿) Was geht? ⁹	Hi Brutus. 嘿(嘿嘿) What's up?
Alfred	Willkommen im Chat.	Welcome in the chat.
J.Cäsar	Danke Alfred.	Thanks Alfred.
Cleo7	Hallo mein Schatz! Ich habe dich vermisst. ♥	Hello my treasure! I have missed you. ♥
J.Cäsar	Hallo Liebling ¹⁰ . Ich dich auch.	Hello darling. I ['ve missed] you too.

² see Index A for names and jobs of the people in the chat.

³ lit. greet you. This is an informal greeting.

⁴ lit. long not seen.

⁵ Hallo (hello) + chen (little) = Hallöchen (little hello).

⁶ lit. greet God! It's used in Southern Germany.

⁷ short for gesegnete Mahlzeit (blessed mealtime), also used without connection to food in Northern Germany.

⁸ used in Northern Germany informally.

⁹ lit. what goes?

¹⁰ from die Liebe (love) and lieben (to love).

EisenH	Guten Morgen, Cäsar. Grüße aus Amerika!	Good morning, Caesar. Greetings from America!
J.Cäsar	Hier in Rom ist es schon Nachmittag ¹¹ . Also guten Tag ¹² !	Here in Rome it is already afternoon. So good afternoon!
EisenH	Guten Tag, Cäsar.	Good afternoon, Caesar.
Alfred	Eigentlich ist es schon Abend.	It is actually evening already.
J.Cäsar	Na dann... guten Abend, Alfred. ☹_☹)	Well then... good evening, Alfred. ☹_☹)
Alfred	Guten Abend.	Good evening.
D.Trump	Abend.	Evening.

The Roman Conquests

It fell to Augustus to complete what Caesar had started, so he conquered *Germania* in 12 AD. He did not get round to *Britannia*, but it was conquered by Kaiser Claudius in 43 AD. There were famous resistance fighters, such as *Hermann the German* who destroyed three Roman legions; and Boudica, the fierce red-haired queen who destroyed Colchester, London and St Albans in 60 AD. However, the Romans doubled down and defeated them all.

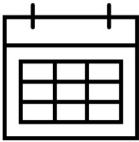
The Romans created new borders too, notably *Hadrian's Wall* (122 AD) to keep away the *Picts* (now the Scots); and the *Limes Germanicus* (160 AD) which placed modern West Germany under Roman control, including Bonn, Cologne (Köln), Frankfurt, Munich (München) and Trier.¹³

¹¹ nach (after) + die Mitte (middle) + der Tag (day)

¹² lit. good day.

¹³ see Index C for cities in Germany.

Because of the Roman influence on our culture, we still use Latin loanwords today, such as democracy (die Demokratie), circus (der Zirkus), dictatorship (die Diktatur), gym¹⁴, republic (die Republik), monarchy (die Monarchie), parliament (das Parlament), religion (die Religion), tyrant (der Tyrann) and university (die Universität). We also continue to use the Roman calendar (der Kalender) in which *July* (Juli) was named after Julius Caesar; and *August* after Augustus. The 12 months (in German) are Januar, Februar, März, April, Mai, Juni, Juli, August, September, Oktober, November und Dezember¹⁵.



der Kalender



The verb to be (sein)

ich bin	:	I am
du bist	:	you (single) are
er/sie/es ist	:	he/she/it is
wir sind	:	we are
ihr seid	:	you (plural) are
sie sind	:	they are

¹⁴ gymnasium meant both exercise ground and school in Latin.
In German, das Gymnasium is a secondary school.

¹⁵ the four seasons are der Frühling (früh means early), der Sommer, der Herbst und der Winter.