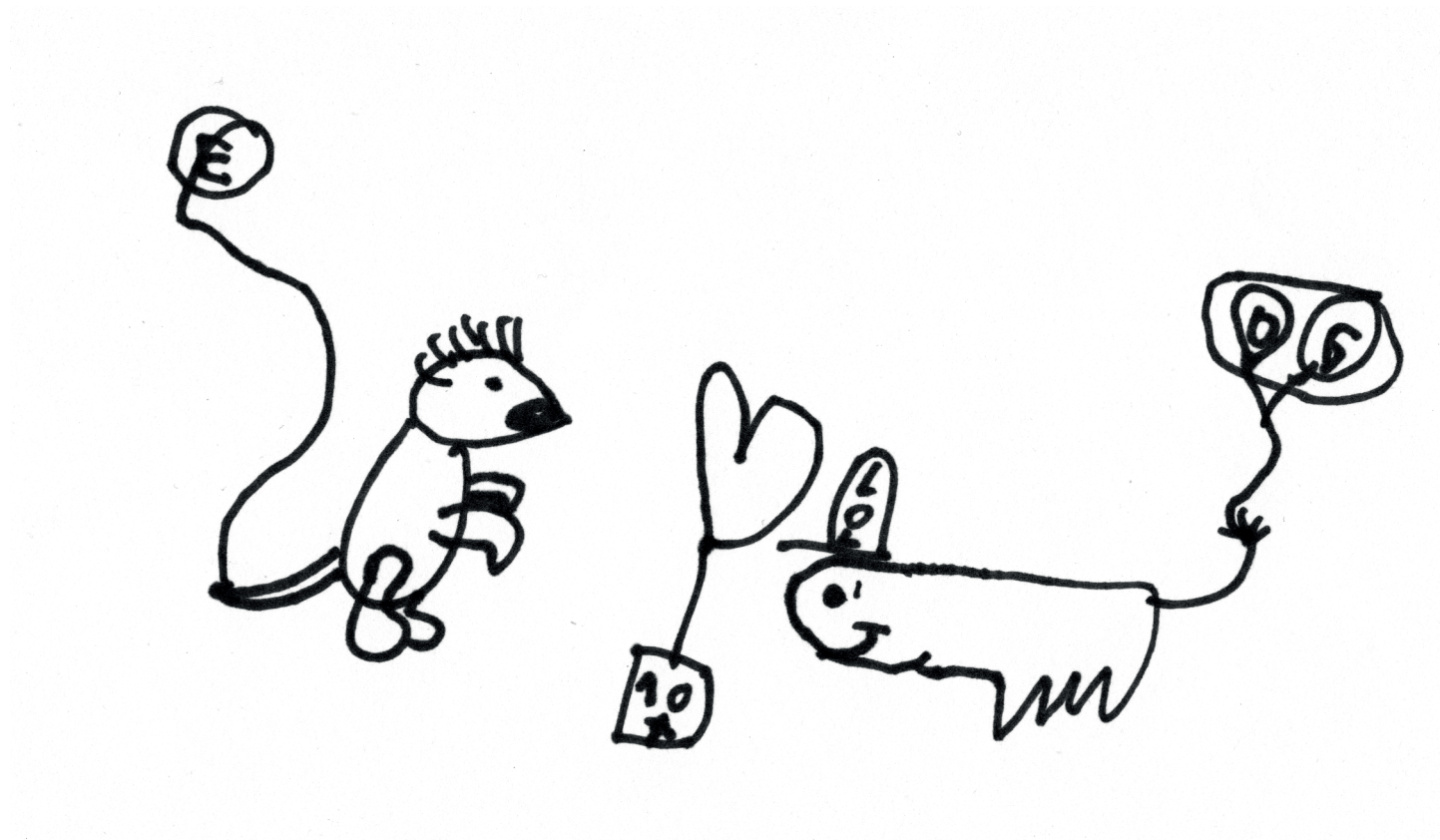


I BELIEVE I SPIDER

about the kangaroo and the german shepard or
what I have learned from my German - Australian relationship

by Sybille Jones



Wie mein Mathelehrer zu sagen pflegte:
My maths teacher always liked to say:

Englisch ist schon eine komische Sprache,
English is a strange language,
Ich heißt I,
Ich means I,
Ei heißt egg,
Ei means egg,
Eck heißt corner,
Eck means corner,
Und koaner ist nobody.
And koaner is nobody

Herman Schepp

✖ LOL

Just a few words

Living with my Aussie husband brought up some interesting cultural issues. In the beginning, I simply overlooked these and thought he was just being slightly odd, however, over time I have come to realise that usually we just learned the same things in a different way or simply place different values on the same issue.

We were able to laugh over some of these issues, whilst others still generate some controversy in our household. At least I can assure you it is never boring and makes our daily life more colorful.

The following pages reveal some of the biggest cultural issues that have come to light over our years together. I may have taken the liberty of exaggerating a few German and Aussie stereotypes, and I am not suggesting one way is right and the other wrong, however we believe that when you are able to laugh about yourself and not take everything to heart, life is easier and problems smaller.

Enjoy!



Dating

German girls dating a German guy know they are responsible for themselves and expect to pay.

An Aussie would rather ask his best friend for money than let his date pay.

It's nice to be looked after by an Aussie guy, on the other hand if you don't like your German date, you just walk off, no obligations.

AGAIN WHAT LEARNED

Learned something new

Tea

Going tea shopping in Germany means standing in front of an aisle having 100 different herbal teas and one black tea.

In Australia you stand in front of an aisle with 100 different types of black tea and one herbal tea.

We both love drinking tea.



Work

7



When something goes wrong the German approach is to phone immediately telling you about the problem. Germans are very direct and never shy to tell you what they think. Sometimes it comes across as rude to an Australian, however it's never intended personally.

The Aussie won't call, you know if an Aussie doesn't call, something is wrong. They are trying to avoid confrontation and hoping the issue can be resolved without telling you.

We both want to fix problems.

EVERY MAN AND HIS DOG

Everyone was there

House

9

German homes are extremely well organized, it is standard to find a surname on every letterbox.

Aussie homes always feel to me like a temporary camp, you rarely find a surname on the letterbox.

Our homes are our castles, with or without gnomes in the front garden.



Shopping

10

If you go shopping with a German friend, you might hear "That looks awful" or, "You look fat in that dress" Your friend wants to make you look good.

When you go shopping with your Aussie friend, you hear „ You look gorgeous in that" or, "That makes you look so skinny". Your friend wants to make you feel good.

They are both my friends and care for me.

NOW I KNOW HOW THE BUNNY RUNS

Now I know how this is working

Water

12

Germans buy their water, bottled in different flavours and with different amounts of bubbles. When you go to a restaurant and ask for water you have to pay for it.

Aussies mostly drink their water straight from the tap or filtered through their tap, water is the first thing that gets put on the table in a restaurant and it's free.



Sensible Aussies.

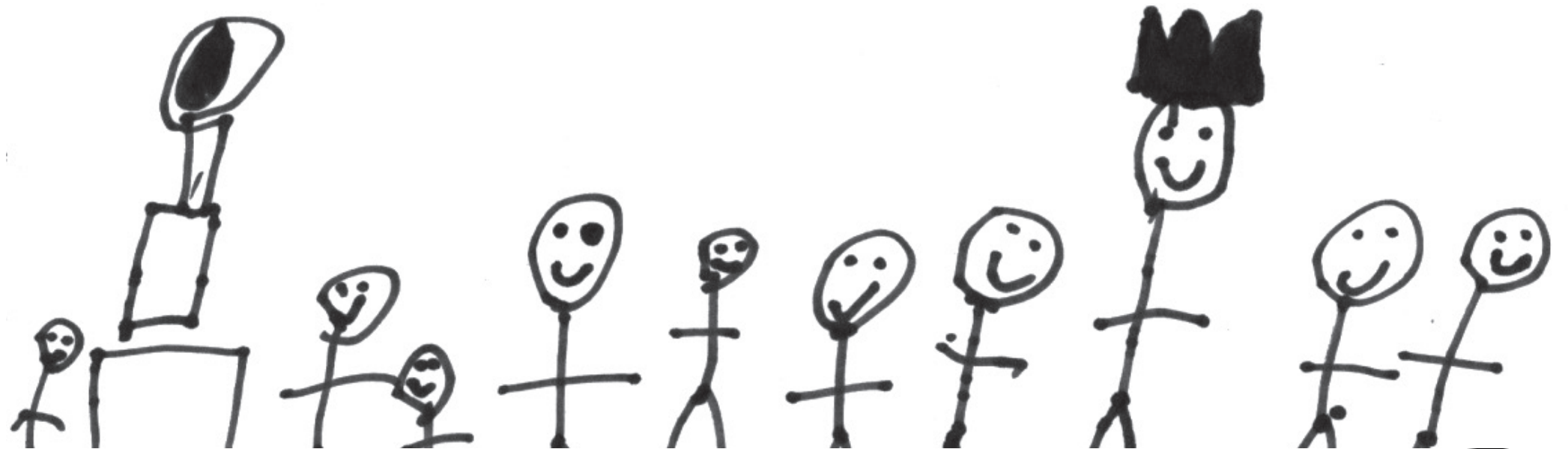
School

13

For a German, you send your children to school to learn and forge their own path. The parents stay out of school and let the teachers teach.

Aussies identify with their schools, they love to get involved, help out and be very engaged in their children's school life.

We both want the best education for our children.



BLOODY OATH MATE

Wow

Birthdayparty

15

German birthdays start at 15.00, eating lots of cake playing games, eating more. At 18.00 it is time for the main course, pizza, sausages, pasta and more playing. Parents pick up kids around 19.00. Guest numbers often reflect the child's age: 6th birthday, six children.

Aussies pack it all into 2 hours of power. Often going somewhere (it's too messy to have at home), maybe a park, or entertainment centre. Aussies organise help, caterers, entertainers, jumping castles, petting zoos. There is lots of food, cake, sausage rolls, fairy bread, cupcakes, fruit, chips and lollies. Aussies must invite everyone in the class, relatives, friends and sometimes neighbours. The invite says 11.30am – 1.30pm and ends promptly at 1:30pm.

We want our children being happy on their special day.

Going out

16

Going out with my German friend means, pick up my jacket and go out.

Going out with my Aussie friend means, getting dressed up and debating if I should put my high heel on.

We will have fun.



NOW BUTTER TO THE FISHES

Let's get down to it

Wine

18

Germans like to drink wine. They put in a lot of effort into their wineries. However except for some of the Rieslings, the choices are limited and not too exciting.

Aussies have great wines, a lot of choice, and great quality. It's quite expensive.

We both drink wine.

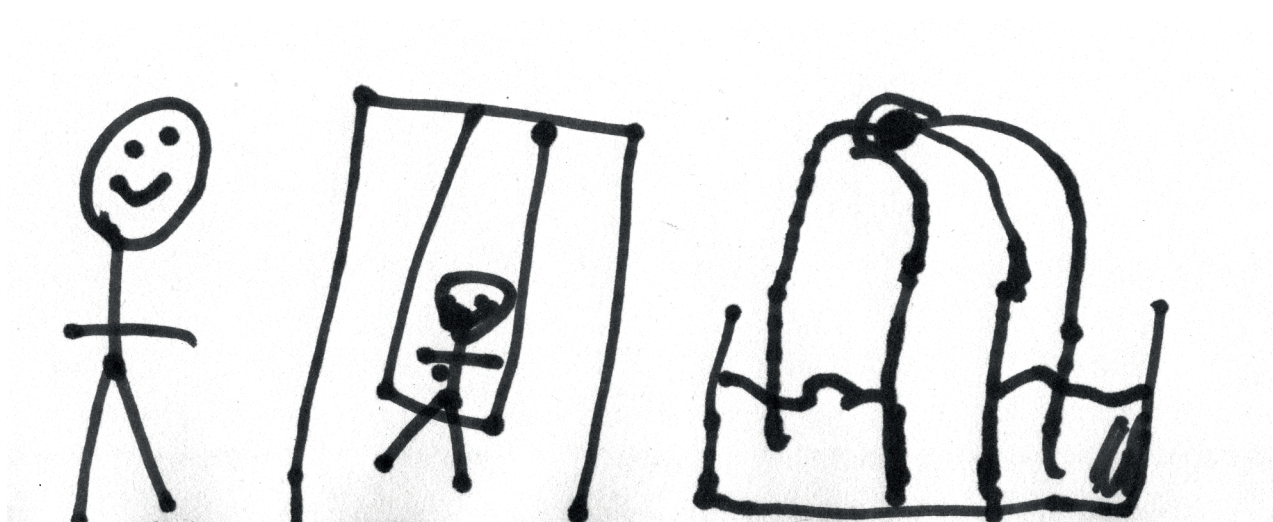
Playground

19

A German kid jumps of a 1m high platform, parent "Be careful you might hurt yourself and crack your head open".

An Aussie kid jumps of the same platform, parent "You're gonna be all right mate, great effort."

We want our kids to have fun and be safe the same time.



ONLY THE HARD COME IN THE GARDEN

Harden up

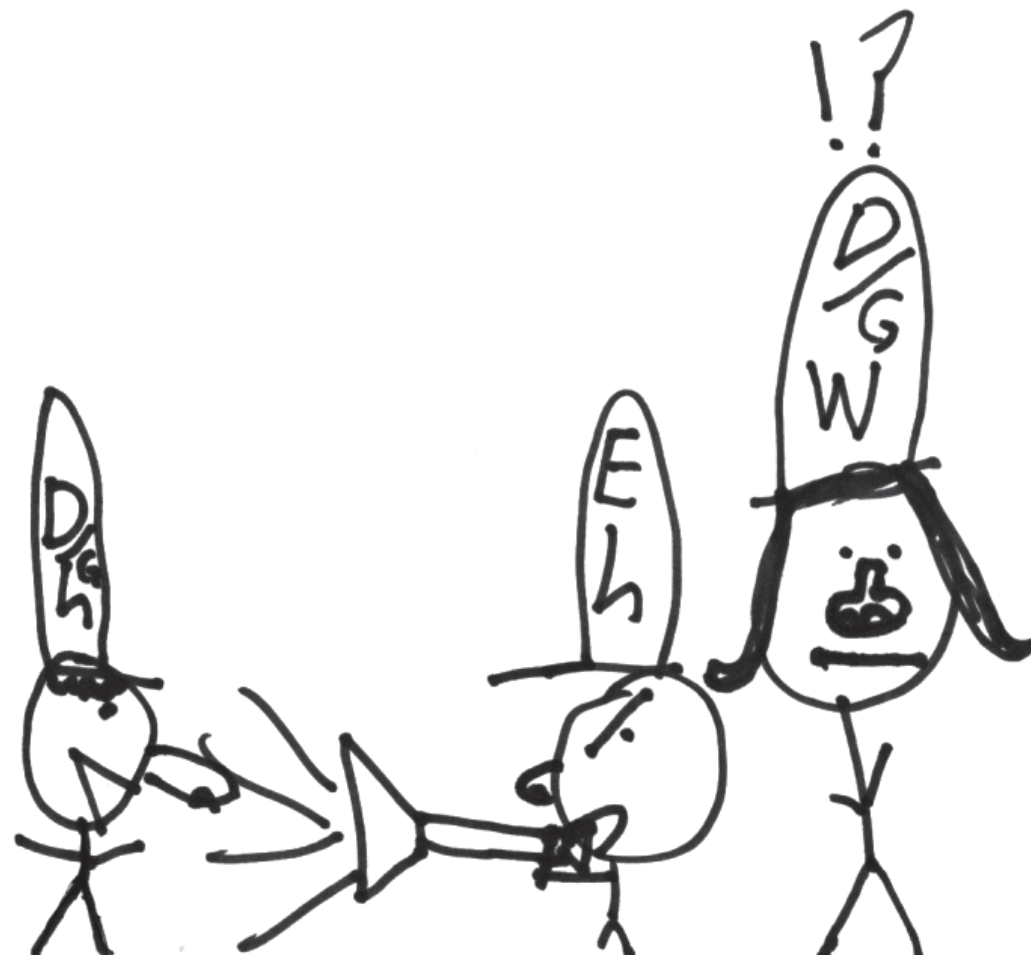
Husband

21

A German man says what he wants.

An Aussie man asks if you want to do something.

No matter which way the guys say it, they want us to do something.



Spider

22

A German says "Look there is a spider!". You actually need a magnifying glass to see it.

An Aussie says "Look there is a spider!". You probably saw it already and were too scared stiff to say something.

Dimensions are relative.



PUT A SOCK IN IT

Shit up

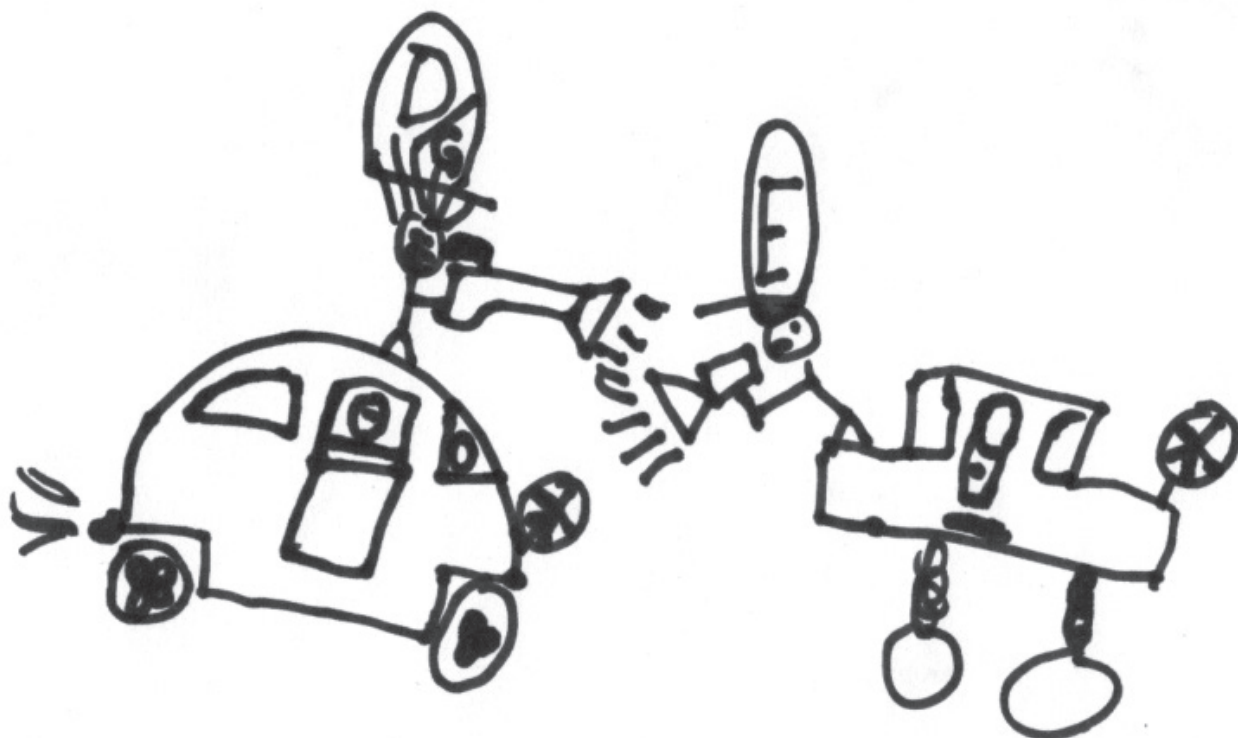
Cars

24

We drive on the left side of the road and drive as fast as we can, in Germany you get fined for driving slow.

Aussies drive on the right hand side, driving is a more laid back. The maximum speed is 100km/hour and 110 when you are very lucky.

We both want to get to our destination



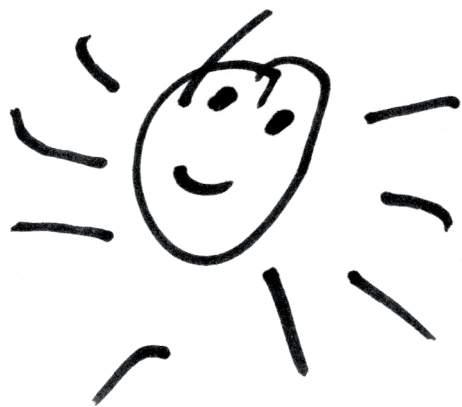
Holiday

25

You will notice a German with Bermuda short, white socks, Birkenstock and a towel under arm ready to reserve the best chair next to the pool.

The Aussie wears board shorts, thongs, sunnies and has a one litre bottle of sun screen in his hand.

We both enjoy holidays.



NOW WE HAVE THE SALAD

What a mess

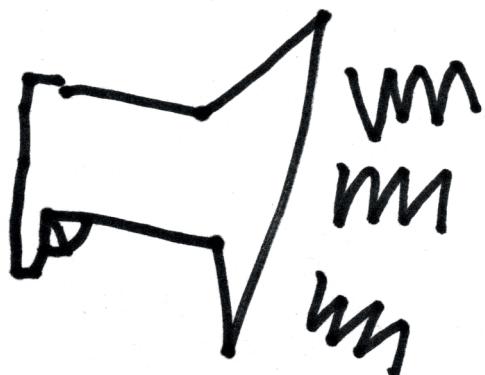
School uniforms

27

Most German kids do not wear school uniforms, kids like to have a choice on what they wear (especially the teenagers) – having choices are an important part of democratic thinking.

Aussie identify with their school and most of them wear their school uniform with pride, parents never have to worry about dressing their kids for school.

As a parent, we are both more interested in what is inside the clothing than outside.

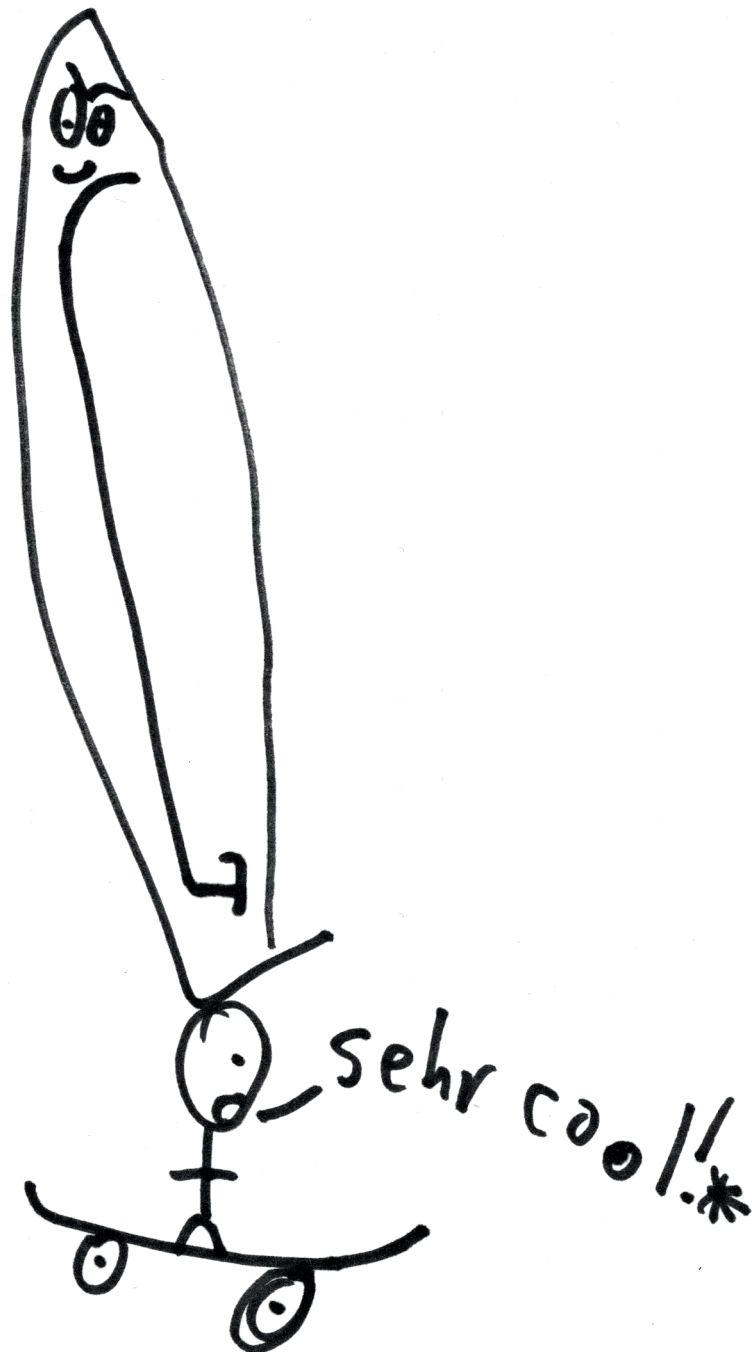


Teenager

28

A German teenager is going to Australia, they will go surfing, visit the outback, tour the great Barrier Reef and gaze in awe at Uluru.

An Aussi teenager is going to Germany, they will drink beer on public transport, drink beer at Oktoberfest, visit Berlin (where they can drink beer on the street) and gaze in awe at the massive beer gardens (whilst drinking beer).



German and Aussie teenagers both like to travel.

THE BACK OF BOURKE

It's a long way away

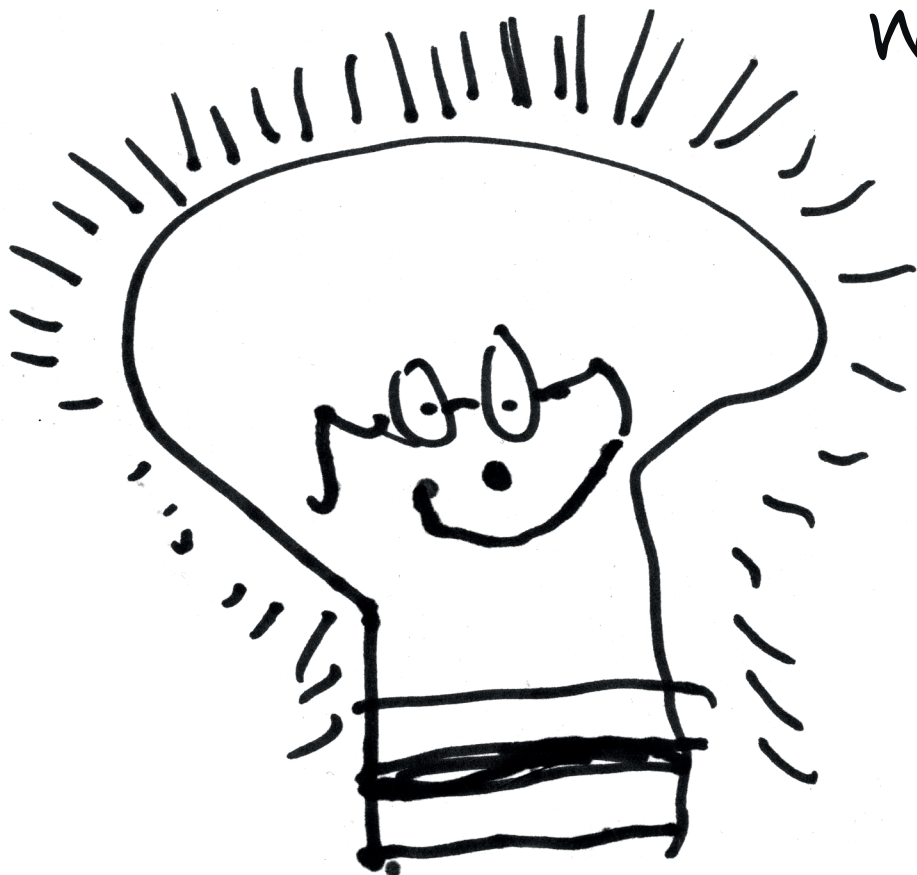
Ideas

30

A German thinks about ideas, always finds problems and discusses them first.

An Aussie thinks about an idea, thinks "that's awesome" and goes for it.

We both want our ideas to succeed.



TV Ads

31

German TV ads have high quality imagery, inspirational sound tracks, they touch the viewer with a serious message that elicits deep meaning and creates engagement with the product being advertised.

Aussie TV ads show typical Aussie's (who could be your neighbour next door), funny ads work best, creating engagement and making the viewer smile.

We both want to watch the movie in peace without ad breaks.



**YOU GO ME ANIMALLY
ON THE COOKIE**

Stop anoying me

Beer

33

Germans drink beer in public and you can buy it everywhere. Additives and flavor enhancers are frowned upon and love making up lot of rules to keep beer pure "Deutsches Reinheitsgebot/The German Beer Purity Law".

Aussie have their beer in a pub or at home. Aussies call poor quality beer "kangaroo piss".

We both like drinking beer.

Full stops or commas

34

Sometimes you really have to watch out for the little things:

Exchange rates aside....

... a German would prefer \$1.000 over €1,000

... an Aussie would prefer €1,000 over \$1.000

But they will both get the same...
\$1.000 = 1 dollar, €1,000 = 1 Euro

We both have only one coin in our pocket.



I BELIVE I SPIDER

You are jokeing

University

36

Studying at university in Germany is free. You will find at least one person in your Class who is over 30. Before you study you often do an apprenticeship.

Studying at university in Australia is expensive, most students are under 25 and start uni directly after school.

We both get a degree.

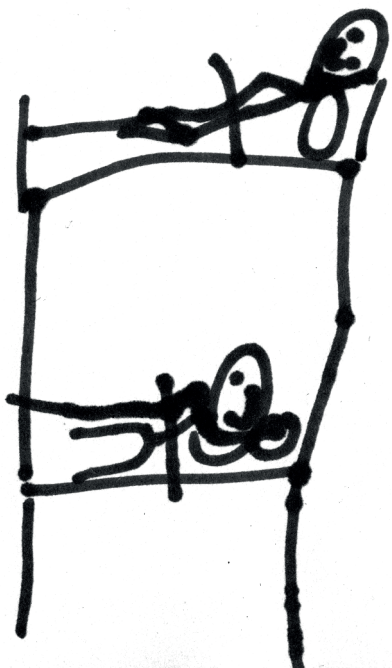


Sick

37

A German goes to the Doctor, sits in a room full of people and waits at least 2 hours to be told by the doctor „it's nothing to worry about". Getting a check up from the doctor is included in their health care. German nature is to worry and to be on the safe side.

Aussie just let it heal. Going to the doctor costs money.



We both want to be healthy.

HEAR UP WITH THE AROUNDEGGERY

Stop complaining

Etiquette

39

Germans can be very direct and come across as quite rude in many things they do and say.

Aussies like to be polite and helpful, it's their way of life.

No matter where you go never forget your manners.

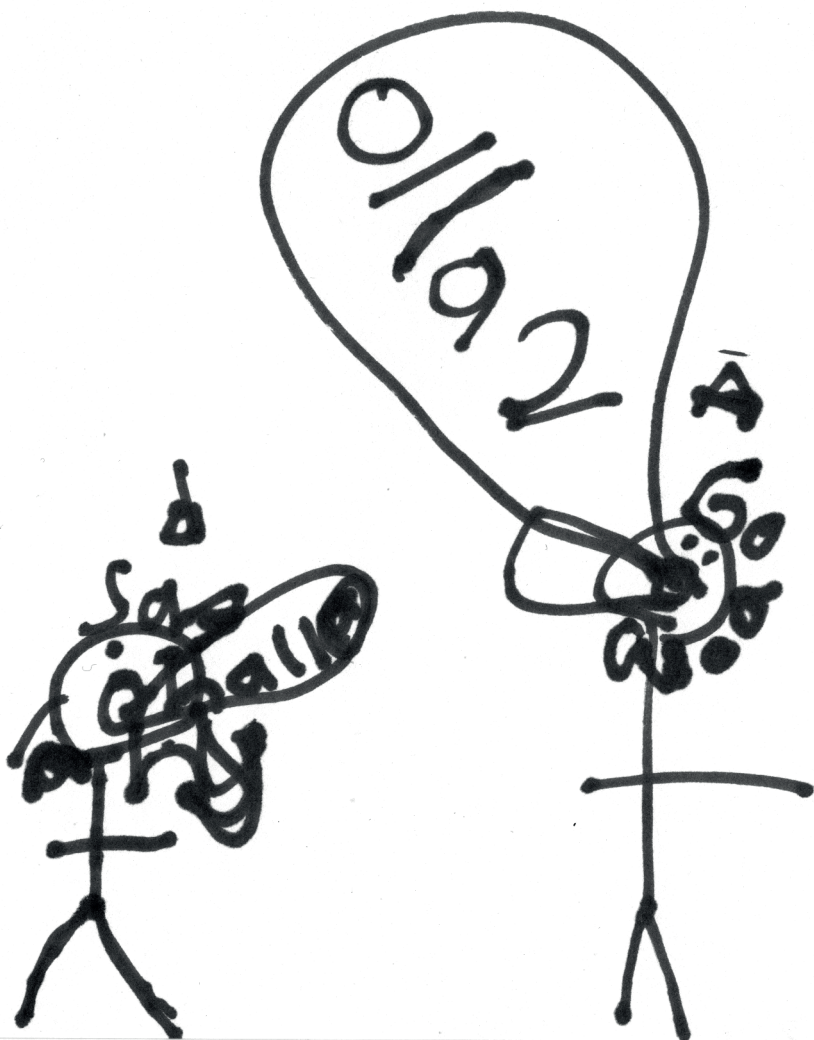
Language

40

Germans speak a minimum of 2 languages, and most speak many more.

Aussie's speak "Aussie" English.

Languages are great, but English is everywhere.



**THIS MAKES YOU SO FAST
NOBODY AFTER**


Well done

Hello


42

Germans shake hands when they greet each other. Good friends and family get a hug and two kisses (one per cheek).

Aussies say Hi or Hey or G'day when they greet each other. Good friends get a hug and one kiss.



Smile if you are uncertain.

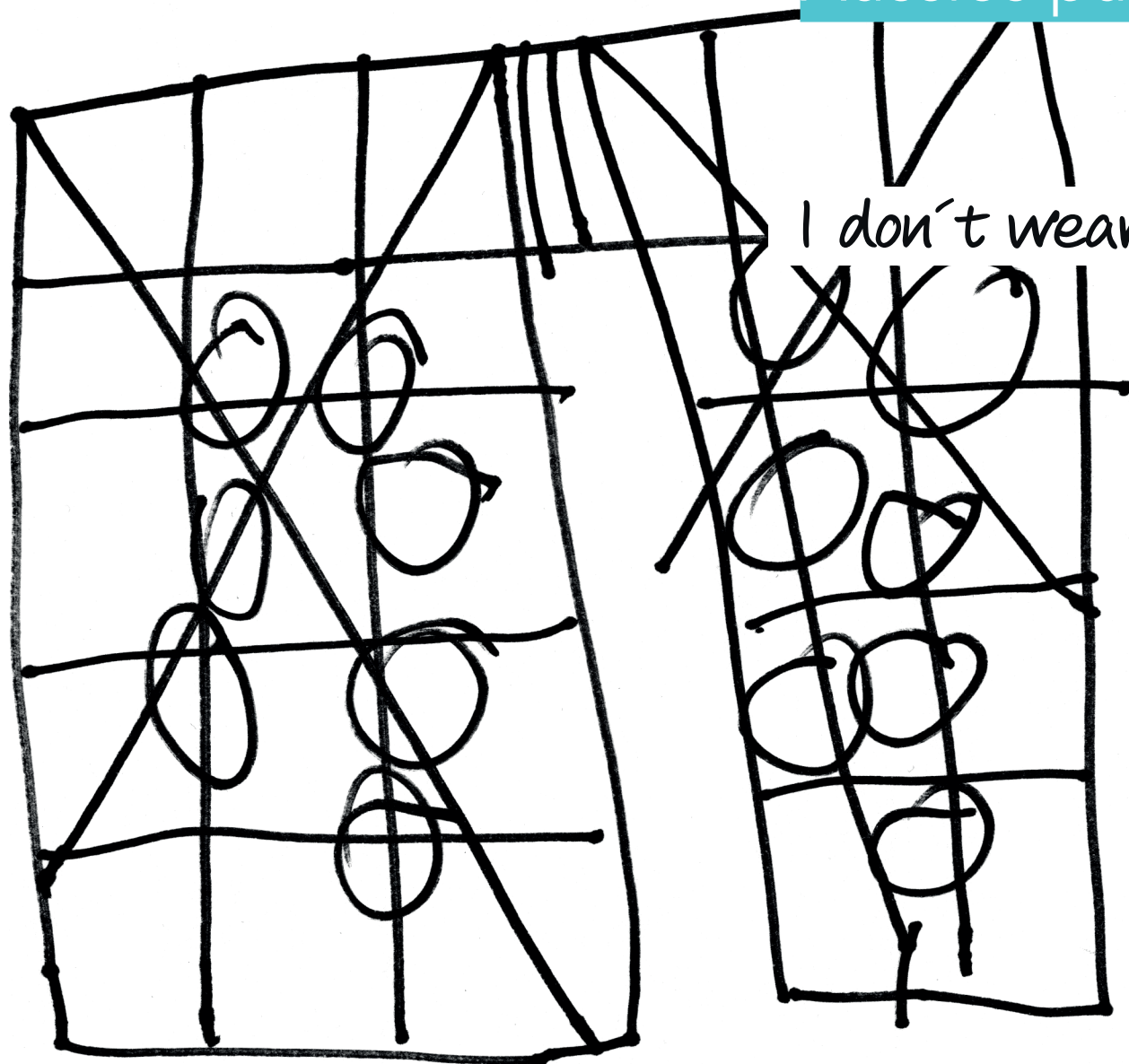


Thermals

43

Germans put on thermals at -5.

Aussies put on thermals at +15 degrees.



I don't wear my thermals in Australia.

HOW HORNY IS THAT THEN

Awsome

Praise

45

Germans do not praise someone or something. Saying "well done" is rare, it has to be exceptionally good to deserve comment.

When you talk to an Aussie they always know have something positive to say and praise you even for little things.

We both like to hear some words of recognition.



Baking

46

Germans love their cakes and baking. Visiting a German bakery you will be amazed by the hundreds of different types of amazing cakes to choose from.

Aussies are the masters of cupcakes. Visiting a birthday party or cupcake shop you will be amazed by the hundreds of creative ways a cupcake can be decorated.

We both love sweets.



DRY AS A DEAD DINGO'S DONGA

It's very dry

Groceries

48

Germans are particular about every item they buy when grocery shopping, they like things to be certified, organic and cheap. Getting your groceries involves visits to many places Markets, Bioladen, Discount shops.

Aussie likes to do their grocery shop all at once, most shop at Woolworths or Coles, organic is a secondary concern and quality is assumed.

Australia has a great variety of food.

We love

49

Wine, Beer, BBQ with sausages (definition of sausages is different), cars (definition of driving a car is different), the beach, support our local club (soccer or cricket) and most of all - our children.

To be continued.

Thanks

50

A special “thank you” to my family. Without you I wouldn’t have come up with this idea!

Thank you to my Aussie family for being so patient with me and my “German” habits.

And thanks to my sister in law who came up with those great Aussie sayings and my sons who supported me with their great illustrations through-out the book.

Credits & Disclaimer

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"I belive I spider" by Sybille Jones

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