

GermanPodcast.de

LESSON 055

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Sich vorstellen

Special points of interest:

- *Introductions usually start with the name. This can either be the full name in a formal or just the first name in an informal context.*
- *The name is followed by either the job or the hometown.*
- *Swiss people usually state their "Heimatgemeinde".*

In today's lesson we will talk about different ways to introduce oneself.

Different names, jobs and hometowns provide a good opportunity to learn additional words.

"Guten Tag, mein Name ist Stephan Wiesner. Ich habe Wirtschaftsinformatik studiert und wohne in Luzern. Ich bin Deutscher, lebe aber seit 5 Jahren in der Schweiz."

"Hallo, ich bin die Eva, 32 Jahre alt. Ich habe zwei Kinder und bin Hausfrau. Wohnen tue ich in Stuttgart."

"Ja hallo erstmal, ich bin der Horst aus Zürich. Mein Beruf ist Komiker. Zur Zeit ziehe ich mit dem Zirkus Krone durch Deutschland."

Swiss people usually state their "Heimatgemeinde". This has traditional roots. In earlier times this was the town they grow up in. Nowadays, as people move more often, it usually is the town their father lived in (and they might have lived there as well).

We Germans in contrast might provide the town we were born in, but only if asked for. This town is part of our unique identification and is printed into our id cards.



"Mein Name ist Stephan Wiesner. . ."

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Vocabulary

die Wirtschaftsinformatik	Business Informatics
ich habe studiert	I have studied
die Hausfrau	housewife
der Komiker / Komikerin	comedian

In business meetings, introductions tend to be very short and to the point.

More Introductions

„Liebe Kollegen, es ist mir eine Freude Ihnen unsere neue Geschäftsführerin Frau Meyer vorzustellen.“

“Guten Morgen, liebe Kollegen, wie Sie gerade gehört haben, ist mein Name Kerstin Meyer. Die letzten 5 Jahre war ich Geschäftsführerin bei Müller und Sohn.”

When a new applicant comes to a meeting with me I will just introduce myself:

“Hallo Herr Meyer. Mein Name ist Wiesner, ich bin der Abteilungsleiter der Testabteilung.”

Exercises

Let's say you are invited for „Kaffee trinken“ at some friends. You do not know the person sitting next to you and she asked who you are.

You answer . . .

Assume that you are called Michael Meyer, age 30, you work as a lawyer in Frankfurt. How might you introduce yourself to a business acquaintance?

. . .

See next page for an example answer.

Picture yourself at the gym, admiring a nice young lady next to you. How might you introduce yourself to her?



Kaffe trinken has a long tradition in Germany, somewhat like the famous tea time in England. Especially with elder people.

Vocabulary

Kaffee trinken	coffee time
der Anwalt / Anwältin	lawyer
das Geschäft	business
das Sportstudio	gym
die Bekanntschaft	acquaintanceship
der/die Geschäftsführer (in)	director

Solutions

Assume that you are called Michael Meyer, age 30, you work as a lawyer in Frankfurt. How might you introduce yourself to a business acquaintance?

“Guten Tag, mein Name ist Michael. Ich bin Anwalt in Frankfurt.”

Picture yourself at the gym, admiring a nice young lady next to you. How might you introduce yourself to her?

“Hi, ich bin Frank.”

Special points of interest:

- *Notice that the lawyer uses a very short introduction, omitting the age.*
- *With friends or in very casual context, you usually just state your name.*

About Kisses and Handshakes

In northern Germany we shake hands. With friends as well as with foreigners. In the southern parts of Germany and in Switzerland friends might greet each other with one to three kisses to the cheeks.

How much time it takes to turn into such a “kissable” friend depends on the people involved. This holds true only for women-to-women and

men-to-women meetings. Men do not kiss each other.

These greetings are a kind of turning a “Bekanntschaft” into a “Freundschaft”, though it does not have to be very deep.

As a man I always let the women determine the time we start kissing.



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In the News



Bern: Evakuierung nach Brand

Wegen einem Brand in der Nähe des Kongress und Kursaal Bern AG sind heute Nachmittag vorübergehend 70 Personen evakuiert worden.

Verletzt wurde aber niemand. Die Höhe des Sachschadens ist vorerst noch nicht bekannt, wie die Berufsfeuerwehr Bern mitteilte.

Die Feuerwehr war kurz nach 12.30 Uhr über den Brand informiert worden.

Die Brandursache ist Gegenstand von Untersuchungen.

Bern: Evacuation because of Fire

70 people had to be evacuated today because of a fire next to the „Kongress und Kursaal Bern AG“.

Nobody got hurt.

According to the fire department Bern the value of the damage is not yet known.

The fire brigade was informed about the fire shortly after 12:30.

The cause of the fire is under examination.

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Questions or comments?

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