

## First-Year German Project K15 • Welcome Kit

### Wir sagen unseren Gästen “Willkommen!” / “Welcome!”

Goals 1) Maintain and expand vocabulary and structures of Kontexte 10-15 (landmarks, street directions, buildings, modal verbs like **möchten** and **müssen**, spatial terms like “to,” “from”). 2) Learn about residential arrangements in German-speaking environments. 3) Expand use of metric terminology where appropriate to the target culture.

Basic task: You are expecting a German-speaking homestay visitor. Prepare a “kit” that will: 1) help you and others where you live, whether or not they speak a little German, be ready to interact at least a little in German with such guests; 2) assure German-speaking guests in your home that they are going to be welcome, familiarize them with your world ahead of time, and help them get around the building, the neighborhood, and the metro area when they get here.

Dimensions of project and time for completion to level of 4 (sufficient): 5 hours over 2 weeks; possible additional time for revisions to reach a higher performance level.

### Preparatory materials and activities

- To help you conceptualize your kit, write in English a short description of what the “welcome kit” might contain. Think about your guests as human beings, and about how you would like to be treated as a guest in their home and culture. Of course their interests and preferences will likely not be the same as yours.
- Compile in German a list of 10 or so nouns for important things (can include terms for people) in EACH of the following three environments: your *home*, your *neighborhood*, and the *surrounding region* (area that can be reached in half an hour or so by car or public transportation). **For nouns include der/die/das and plural, written out IN FULL.** Do NOT include words presented up to the current chapter of *Wie, bitte?* “Important” means prominent in the “landscape” – something your guests would encounter often and find occupying their attention as they lived here and tried to find their way around. For example, if you live in a downtown condominium, words for “elevator” and “security guard” might well be important. Suggestion: Consult German popular magazines (PSU library or downtown news stores like *Rich’s*), the *Cosmo Lexikon Talking Pictorial Dictionary*, or German-language WWW sites (search on *Wohn / Heim [home] / Möbel [furniture]*). English-German dictionaries, whether paper or on-line, can be dangerous at your current language level; if you feel you must use one, look up in reverse order (German-English) the words you find in the English-German section.
- In English or German give a brief personal description of the guest you anticipate (can be a real person or an invention, but please maintain good taste). If you write in English, the content of your description will be judged more strictly than it would be in German.
- Answer in GERMAN the following questions that might be directed at you by your future guest(s). You’re replying to a human being, not making a list of minimal phrases for a German professor, so respond with generous sentences. Use METRIC units of measurement. If you have encountered the “du” (familiar form) and want to use it instead of “Sie,” go ahead. Later, in your personal note, you can use some of the language you develop here (but the note has to contain more than this).

Wie weit wohnen Sie von der Universität und wie kommen Sie dahin (Auto, usw.)?

Wie groß ist Ihr Haus / Ihre Wohnung? Wieviele Stöcke gibt es?

Wer wohnt da, und wer hat welche Zimmer?

Was sind typische Preise im Supermarkt, für Konzertkarten, Benzin, usw.?

Wie ist die Tagesroutine im Haus, besonders am Anfang und Ende des Tages und bei Mahlzeiten? Muß / Darf ich kochen?

Wie schmeckt das Essen in der Universität, und darf ich dort essen?

- Locate some visual aids or other resources that your guest(s) would find valuable for their information about your home, neighborhood, and metro region. Possible resources: camera, AAA office, Chamber of Commerce, PSU information kiosks, neat home-made drawings. Turn in **copies** of some of them with Stage 1.

## **Composing your project:**

Welcome kits can vary tremendously, but here are likely ingredients of a “welcoming kit” for a German-speaking guest in your home, with support materials for you and others who will welcome the guest:

- THE PREPARATORY MATERIALS described on the previous page (Factor 2 on Scoring Guide).
- A SHORT LETTER in German that tells the guest about the home: its appearance, especially the areas that will be important to the guest (breakfast nook? laundry room? hot tub?); its inhabitants, especially those the guest will be dealing with regularly or who may take some effort getting used to or along with (cat that likes to repose on faces of sleeping people, roommate from whose quarter come high-volume noises or just indiscreet sounds); the neighborhood and major travel routes (to grocery store, downtown, bowling alley, bank or other place of worship); the routines of daily life and how the guest will (or perhaps need not) fit in with them. (Factor 3 on Scoring Guide)
- A PARAGRAPH OR TWO IN GERMAN AND SOME INFORMATIVE RESOURCES that will help the guest be more independent and even learn more about our city, state, region and country. You can do the paragraph writing more easily if you learn how to “steal” language from a German-language website that describes our area. Dense numerical information (like a bus schedule) can be useful, but there may be parts of it (organization, abbreviations, etc.) that might puzzle the guest. Less mechanical resources (counter-culture tabloid article about your favorite local musical group) may pose problems of cultural difference and non-standard English that you may try to address in German. (Factor 4 on Scoring Guide)
- A VISUAL AID that can help the guest feel at “home” before being there, especially if some particular knowledge of a culturally unfamiliar part of American life will be important to the guest’s happiness, success, or physical survival. Chatty, personalized captions in German are a real plus. Homemade visual aids have the advantage of being personal and signaling affection, but they can look pretty primitive... (Factor 5 on Scoring Guide)

Your kit, when finished, should look like the real thing. But remember that you’re doing this for a language course. Nice colors and cute ideas don’t make up for sparse and low-quality German. Check the scoring guide, and bear in mind the following policies:

- You are expected to demonstrate proficiency in the structures and vocabulary that you have been developing since Kontext 1, but particularly those of recent Kontexte. It’s not safe to play safe on language; check the structure and vocabulary pages of those recent Kontexte and apply them in your writing. It’s also not safe (and not honest) to use an on-line translator.
- If you turn in your project on time, with all parts present and showing an honest attempt to carry out the task, but still are not satisfied with your score, you may revise your project for another week and could achieve a better score.
- The Scoring Guide is blank at the 6 level for the category of “package content.” That is because you can’t add something unexpected and impressive if you have already been told what that is. Give it some thought. If your task were to make the bed your guest would be sleeping in the first night in your home, the unexpected, impressive element might be a local delicacy for a late snack, or something warm and cozy from the local products outlet. But your task is a welcome kit in German, so there has to be some German language along with the “surprise” element.