

17 Hilarious German Insults That Are More Funny Than Offensive

André Klein · Thursday, September 22nd, 2016

Looking for new funny German insults to use with friends?

One of the peculiarities of the German language is that you can very easily string nouns together to create new words which very quickly leads to monstrosities - like *Donaudampfschiffahrtsskapitänkajütentürknauf* (door handle of a Danube captain's cabin).

Unsurprisingly, some of the best German insults are compound [nouns](#). Below, we've collected 17 funny, strange and ridiculous German insults (for educational purposes only of course).

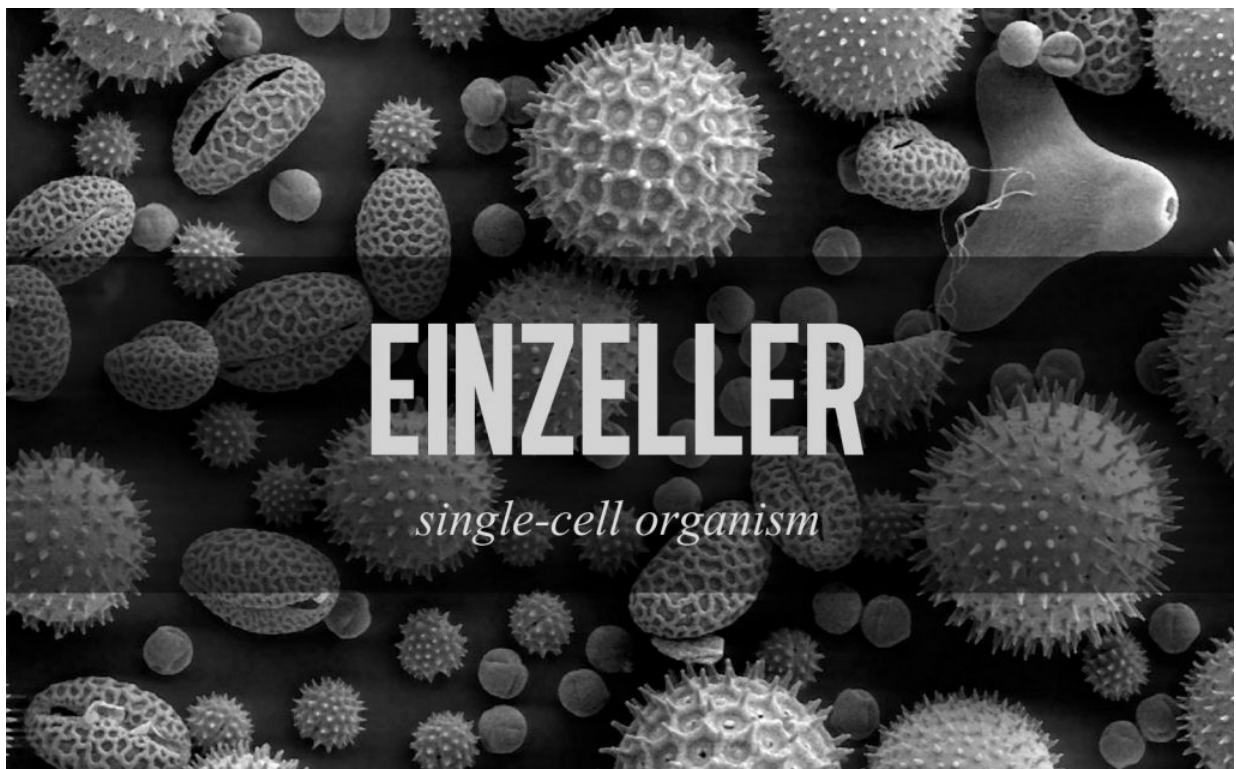
Some of them are used in daily life, some are more polite, others are a bit more meta, but they are all good examples of how compound nouns can be used to effectively and intelligently insult someone.

So let's dive into world of German cuss words with these 17 German insults and their translations:

Funny German Insults



The *Erbenszähler* (m) is a nitpicker, someone who is constantly concerned with insignificant details. One may argue that this isn't really insulting in German culture, because it describes a favorite German past-time, but I digress ...



This is a simple but effective insult to hint that somebody's intelligence may be sub-par at best, because they are just “one cellers”. This is one of these swear words in German that can both be used humorously and in a more aggressive manner.



A *Dumpfbacke* (f) is a person who's not just a bit naive and/or intellectually challenged but also lacks empathy and a general sense of reality. In short, the worst kind of stupid.



A *Landei* (n) may refer to a delicious untampered-with egg straight from the farmer's market, whereas for the human "country egg" the same lack of development is usually marked as something negative. Funny, isn't it?



Talking about air, the *Hohlkopf* (m) is a head with nothing inside it except, well ... air.



A *Pappnase* (f) is a person whose failure to understand something is cause for great amusement and/or pity. Based on the clown's cardboard nose, this insult is used to lovingly insult someone who somehow just didn't see the obvious.



Do you know what a *Bananenbieger* (m) is? The word literally translates to “banana bender” and just like in English the -er at the end makes it look like a job or tool (*driver*, *gardener*, *screwdriver*, etc.)

So a *Bananenbieger* is someone whose job is to bend bananas. Sounds silly? That’s the point. This German insult is used to describe someone who doesn’t want to concentrate on their task and therefore will inevitably find no other occupation than doing something utterly pointless.



One of the rare insults in this list which is not primarily aimed at human beings, *Kampfdackel* (m) refers to any annoying canine that thinks its a Doberman or a Great Dane but barely reaches up to its owners knee.



Lackaffe (m): This simple but effective insult describes members of the male species that dress overly flashy in the belief that this makes them better human beings while in the end they probably just look like a “lacquer monkey”.



A *Blockflötengesicht* (n) literally means a face that looks like a recorder. Doesn't make any sense? It's quite simple, actually. Just like the standard recorder has 7 openings a *Blockflötengesicht* has 7 openings (2 eyes, 2 ears, 2 nostrils, 1 mouth) out of which comes nothing but warm/hot air, i.e. empty talk.

Now, let's take a look at some more out-of-the box German insults for specific situations:



Probably one of the longest and most complex words in this list the *Bewegungslegastheniker* (m) describes a person to whom simple movements (whether in the realm of gross or fine motor skills) are just as impenetrable as the alphabet is to a dyslexic. In short, a “klutz” or “butterfingers” who stumbles and fumbles through life.



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If you want to make a point that a person is so stupid that the procreation of their dubious genetic makeup will lead to a massive slowdown of human evolution you don't have to resort to expletives. Just call them an *Evolutionsbremse* (f) and you're done.



Do you know these people who always need to do things 200% by the book and focus on the most irritating of details? Well, in German they are called *Ameisentätowierer* (m), because their habits are as annoying as trying to tattoo an ant's back.



Another -er word, the *Gehirnverweigerer* (m) is a play on the more common *Wehrdienstverweigerer*, meaning a draft dodger. Whereas the latter refuses to take up arms for his country, the former simply refuses to use his grey matter.



A *Klappspaten* (m) is a strange tool. It looks like a shovel, it functions like a shovel, but it just feels so ... stupid. So if you want to insult someone who looks a person and talks like a person ... well, you get the idea.



Another entry in the -er category of famous German insults, the *Dünnbrettbohrer* (*m*) may refer to either a drill or a person wielding said drill for the purpose of drilling very very thin boards. If you think about it a “thin-board-driller” is a bit like a *Kampfdackel*, all bark and no bite.



The mouth opens and the mouth closes. But all that comes out is hot air. That's a *Heißluftgebläse* (*n*), literally a hot air blower or ventilator.

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