

Hörverstehenstexte 2025



Teil 1: Radio Show: New Zealanders living abroad

(Audiotrack: QR-Code rechts / Aufgaben S. 1)

Listen to the weekly radio show "A New Zealander's opinion about living abroad", which is broadcasted by the Auckland-based radio station "North Island Gossip". Every Monday morning the show host Brendan Walker interviews a New Zealander who has been living outside of New Zealand for quite some time. The focus of the show is on giving the guest an opportunity to voice their personal opinion of the country they now live in.

Brendan: Hello everyone. My name is Brendan Walker. Welcome to our programme „A New Zealander's opinion about living abroad“. Some of you may still remember my interview with Ronald Vance last week, who told us some interesting things about living in Italy. Today I will be interviewing Sophie Rogers, who has been living in Germany for the last 10 years. Now, Sophie, how are you today?

Sophie: I'm fine. Thanks for having me on your show, Brendan.

Brendan: I understand that you come from a small town near Wellington. How come you moved to Berlin 10 years ago?

Sophie: Well, in those days I was attending law school at Victoria University in Wellington. And at one of the college parties I met Ralf Wenninger, who became my husband in Germany a couple of years later. Ralf spent a year in my law school as a postgraduate exchange student from Berlin. He was a very attractive young man: intelligent, modest, well-mannered and very good-looking. I immediately fell in love with him.

Brendan: Wow, that sounds like love at first sight. Since you are a married couple now, Ralf must have fallen in love with you, too, I presume.

Sophie: Yes, he did. I know it really sounds like a love story in a tacky Hollywood movie. But that is just the way it was with Ralf and me.

Brendan: That's lovely. No need to apologise, Sophie. But please tell our listeners when and why you moved to Berlin.

Sophie: Well, after his exchange year in Wellington Ralf had to go back to Germany. His father was the owner of a well-known law firm in Berlin and offered his son to become a junior partner in his firm.

Brendan: Did you move to Berlin together with Ralf when he went back to Germany?

Sophie: Believe it or not, I did. To be honest, I still think it was quite a crazy and courageous decision. After all, when I went to Berlin with Ralf, neither had I graduated from law school in Wellington, nor was I able to speak a single word of German.

Brendan: That does sound like a very courageous decision, I have to say. Well, I'm curious, how did you get on in Germany after moving there?

Sophie: Well, as far as my college career was concerned, I was lucky to find a private law school in Berlin that offered tuition in English as well as internationally acknowledged law degrees. But in terms of my everyday life, I really went through something that can arguably be called culture shock.

Brendan: Why was that? Could you explain that in greater detail?

Sophie: You know, before moving to Germany I had always believed that most Germans were fluent enough in English to have casual and even professional conversations in my mother tongue. However, this is only partly true. As long as you are in the company of well-educated people, as most of Ralf's family and friends are, Germans are not only able but also very happy to speak English with a native speaker. On the other hand, if you try to get by in everyday situations like, for example, in a supermarket, a bakery or a hairdresser's shop, you need to have at least a basic knowledge of German to make yourself understood.

Brendan: I perfectly understand what you are talking about because I used to live in Spain for a couple of years back in the 2010s. I really had the same problem that you are describing. Knowing hardly any Spanish at all, I struggled very hard to get by in everyday life there. But let's get back to your story. Apart from the language barrier, what other things did you find hard to get used to in Germany back then?

Sophie: What I found quite puzzling, at least in the first couple of months, was the lack of friendliness in the way Germans communicate among each other in everyday life. I do not want you or your listeners to get me wrong here. Germans can be very kind and warm-hearted people once you get to know them better in a personal way. The unfriendliness that I'm talking about is the way in which Germans deal with people they do not know personally, like, you know, in shops or restaurants, at bus stops or railway stations, and even in college. In New Zealand, as you perfectly know yourself, Brendan, we

usually greet strangers with a smile and often have chats with them. Those chats may just be small talk, but they do help to break the ice or ease the awkwardness between people who do not know each other. In Germany, only very few people smile at strangers or try to strike up conversations with them. In fact, if you do that, lots of Germans may think that you are either crazy or some kind of thug that is trying to trick or rob them.

Brendan: That's quite interesting, I mean, the ways in which cultures differ in terms of everyday communication between people. Well, now that you have told us about some negative facets of living in Germany, are there any things that you find intriguing or even fascinating about Germany, too?

Sophie: Yes, of course there are. To me the most impressive thing about Germany is its world-famous contributions to art, philosophy and classical music. Especially in Berlin, of course, but also in other cities in Germany, you can find excellent art galleries, museums, opera houses and theatres. Moreover, there are countless monuments and statues honouring iconic German philosophers like Kant, Hegel, Marx and Nietzsche as well as outstanding composers like Beethoven, Bach and Mozart. Well, Mozart was actually Austrian, but his mother tongue was German, so in a way you can leave him on this list, too.

Brendan: I couldn't agree more with you, Sophie. Germany's culture in those spheres is indeed amazingly rich and admirable. Now, our time is up. Let's leave it at that. Sophie, thank you very much for sharing your thoughts and feelings about living in Germany. Talking to you has been a real pleasure.



Teil 2: Intriguing facts and figures about the British monarchy

(Audiotrack: QR-Code rechts / Aufgaben S. 3)

The British monarchy is not only one of the oldest and best-known monarchies in the world, but it is also counted among the more fascinating ones, too. The enormously widespread interest in the British monarchy around the world is largely due to two factors.

The first factor relates to the fact that quite a number of monarchs in British history, both male and female, had very memorable characteristics and personalities. By way of example, let us take King Henry VIII, who was the British monarch in the first half of the 16th century. Not only did he found the Church of England after breaking with the Pope in Rome, he also had as many as six wives, two of whom he ordered to be executed. This incredibly brutal behaviour rightfully earned him the name of the most bloodthirsty monarch in British history. Two other examples of world-famous and highly intriguing British monarchs are Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria. Both of them were not only extraordinarily tough and strongheaded women, but they also contributed substantially to Britain's continuous rise to a global empire between the 16th and the 19th centuries.

Another major reason for the worldwide interest in the British monarchy is that it is associated with a great many interesting, astonishing and, in some cases, even downright bizarre facts and figures. To begin with, only few people, including those living in the UK, are aware of the fact that the British monarch owns not only all unmarked swans in open waters across England and Wales, but also all marine life in British waters within 3 miles off the British coast, including dolphins and whales. Secondly, British monarchs have two birthdays: an official birthday celebration in June and their actual birthday. This rule was introduced by King George II in the 18th century because British weather is so unpredictable that monarchs should have a better chance of having birthday celebrations in warm and sunny weather conditions. Thirdly, did you know that British monarchs cannot be arrested or prosecuted, even if they broke the law? This is probably why they do not need to carry a driving licence when driving on public roads. Last but not least, one of the most bizarre facts about British monarchs is that when the king or queen dies, the royal beekeeper is traditionally required to inform the palace bees about the loss. It is still an unanswered question what language the beekeeper uses when speaking with the bees.

Let us now turn to a number of intriguing facts and stories that relate to individual monarchs in recent British history. For example, Queen Elizabeth II, who came to the throne in 1952 and died in 2022, had a habit of sending messages to her staff with the help of her handbag. For instance, by putting her bag from one hand to the other, she signalled to her staff that she wanted to finish a conversation as soon as possible. Similarly, putting her bag on the table meant that she wished to leave within the next couple of minutes. The current monarch, King Charles III, also has a habit that comes across as somewhat bizarre. Whenever he travels, he usually takes with him his own bed as well as a personalised toilet seat and special toilet paper.

As a matter of fact, it is not only the monarchs themselves but also their entire families that have attracted

people's attention for centuries. The most prominent example in this respect is the family of Queen Elizabeth II. The exceedingly huge degree of public interest in this royal family is primarily due to the fact that it has been subject to an unprecedented amount of media coverage. As a result of this tremendous media coverage in the last 50 years, the general public in Britain, and indeed around the globe, has gained an unprecedentedly deep insight into a wide range of trivial, amazing and sometimes even bizarre facts about various members of this family.

Let us start with Queen Elizabeth's grandson Prince William, who is next in line to the throne when King Charles III dies. Interestingly, the Prince has something in common with Harry Potter. As William was hit by a golf ball while playing golf with a friend back in 1991, he now has a scar on his forehead which is very similar to the one Harry Potter is famous for. Secondly, William's brother, Prince Harry, can rightfully be called one of the most unorthodox members of the royal family. He married Meghan Markle, a US-born actress with African-American roots and no royal blood whatsoever. What is more, their wedding, which featured a gospel choir, black musicians and a church service performed by an American bishop, basically broke with all the traditions that had been steadfastly upheld by the British monarchy for centuries. In fact, not only Queen Elizabeth's grandsons can certainly be called unusual members of the royal family. The lives of her own children have also been surrounded by unusual circumstances. Her daughter Anne, for example, was a great admirer of horses and was the first royal to participate in Olympic Games in an equestrian event. However, the most unusual story about Queen Elizabeth's family is presumably the marriage of her son Charles to Lady Diana, Princess of Wales, who is still believed to be the most-photographed woman of all times. Their glamorous wedding in 1981 was the most televised event in Britain and, possibly, even globally at the time. No less extraordinary than this fairy-tale wedding was the fact that the couple ultimately got divorced in the 1990s, an event that turned out to be a tremendous challenge to, and an enormous burden on, the royal family. Last but not least, Lady Diana's death in a car crash in 1997 as well as the Queen's inappropriate response to this tragic event dealt an even heavier blow to the monarchy which it took many years to recover from.



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