



Department
for Education

e-Space



My Virtual Journal



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Welcome to Germany!

On your virtual trip through Germany, you will have many experiences with your exchange partner and your host family, discover new things and, above all, speak a lot of German.

This journal is here to help you document and reflect on things that are interesting, funny, awesome, (and sometimes not so awesome). In the journal, you can capture your personal experiences and, at the end of your exchange, look back on these experiences with joy. In addition, the journal has a few exciting assignments in store for you, which will help you to get to know the culture, language and people better.

We hope you have lots of fun!



The **Goethe-Institut** is Germany's cultural institute, operating worldwide. We promote knowledge of the German language abroad and fostering international cultural cooperation. GIMAGINE is a project by the Goethe-Institut in cooperation with its partners of the National Consortium for Languages Education (NCLE).

UK-German Connection is a bilateral government initiative dedicated to improving contacts and understanding between young people in the UK and Germany. It was established in 2005 and is funded and governed by the UK and German governments, British Council and the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst.

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1. My first exchange

(Skype, Facetime, WhatsApp etc.)

Today, I feel



because, ...

It would be great if you could find time to meet live with your partner. If it doesn't work out, choose an appropriate tool (*YouTube, WhatsApp, TikTok, etc.*) to film a short video introduction to send to your partner. Here are a few ideas to help you lead a conversation:

- My name is... and I am... years old. I live in... with...
- I have... pets: (Name, race, Age, Gender)
If you have no pets: Explain if you would like to have any, and if so, which one/s.
- I am looking forward to... (food, culture, making friends, etc.)
- I am a little nervous about...

Assignment

Learn 2-3 phrases or sentences that are used in your partner country in daily life.

To do this, you can either write or meet virtually with your partner. You can choose a suitable tool together. Write down your phrases and translate them if needed. Here are some examples:

- Have a nice evening.
- I am knackered.
- I am sick and tired of it.
- What's up?
- Can I help you?
- I will cross my fingers.

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2. Get to know your virtual family!

Today, I feel



because, ...

Meet virtually for 10-20 minutes on a suitable tool, e.g. *Skype*, *Google Meet*, *Zoom*, etc. to get to know each other. It would be great if family members would attend.

Here are a few questions you can use to start a conversation:

- How are you all doing?
- What did you all do today?
- What are your plans for the weekend?
- How many people live in your house/apartment?
- What is there to see in your area?
- Is this your first exchange?

Assignment

Tell your host family about your favourite music and ask about his/her favourite music/artist. Have you ever seen your favourite artist live; if so, where and how was it? Write down your thoughts:

My first impression was...

I feel...

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3. Talk about your day!

Today, I feel



because, ...

You can discuss this in writing online or over the phone. Agree on a suitable tool (Portal, IG, Zoom, Google Meet, email, WhatsApp, etc). Share for example:

- Today, I went to school and...
- I met with my friends today and we have...
- For lunch today, there was...
- Actually, today I wanted to... , but then...

Assignment

What does a perfect day in your city look like? Exchange ideas with your partner. What would you possibly do together if a trip took place?
Write down which ideas interested your partner and which did not.



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4. Get to know your virtual e-Space exchange family even better!

Today, I feel



because, ...

Meet virtually for 10-20 minutes on a suitable tool, e.g. *Skype*, *Google Meet*, *Zoom*, etc. to get to know each other. It would be great if family members would attend.

Here are a few questions you can use to start a conversation:

- What is your favourite holiday and how do you celebrate it?
- Who cooks at your house?
- Who is the funniest in the family?
- Where did you last go on holiday? Where would you like to go?
- What are your favourite movies and why?

Assignment

Talk about your hobbies and ask the family about theirs. Maybe you have a hobby in common? If so, practice it together, document it (video, photos) and share it on the platforms. We look forward to hearing your ideas. Write:

This is my partner's family:

I find this very interesting:

I was able to identify these similarities and differences:

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5. Learn more about your partner town/village!

Today, I feel



because, ...

You can discuss this in writing online or over the phone. Agree on a suitable tool (*Portal, IG, Zoom, Google Meet, email, WhatsApp, etc.*). Here are a few topics you can use to start a conversation:

- Transportation methods
- Trip ideas
- My town/village is well known for...
- How many people live in this town/village?
- How far is my town/village from the nearest big city?
- Have you ever been in that town/village?

Assignment

Write down a list of your 5 favourite places in your area and share it with your exchange partner.

You can collect pictures and information e.g. about the following places: Restaurants, beaches, lakes, skate parks, rivers, parks, town centres etc.

This is what I already know about my partner town/village:

What I like about my partner town/village:

If I lived there, here's what I would appreciate/miss:

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6. Diversity

Today, I feel



because, ...

You can discuss this in writing online or over the phone. Agree on a suitable tool (*Portal, IG, Zoom, Google Meet, email, WhatsApp, etc.*). Here are a few topics you can use to start a conversation:

- What traditions are in your own country and the partner country?
- How many different languages and cultures are there in your own country and in the partner country?
- A culture that particularly interests me...
- What value does diversity bring to your area?
- What are your experiences with diversity?

Assignment

What differences do you see in cultural diversity between your hometown and your partner city?

Ask your partner:

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7. What excites you about e-Space?

Today, I feel



because, ...

You can discuss this in writing online or over the phone. Agree on a suitable tool (*Portal, IG, Zoom, Google Meet, email, WhatsApp, etc.*). Here are a few topics you can use to start a conversation:

- What has inspired me most so far: (e.g. food culture, culture, language, family, virtual exchanges, friendships, etc.)
- This is what has surprised me the most so far (positive & negative) during the e-Space programme: (e.g. friends, culture, routines in the partner country, festivals etc.)
- My motivation to learn a foreign language
- Trip to the partner country

Assignment

Tell your host family or partner what great things you've learned so far and what you're taking away from this exchange programme.

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8. My daily life – your daily life

Today, I feel



because, ...

Meet virtually for 10-20 minutes on a suitable tool such as *Skype*, *Google Meet*, *Zoom*, etc. to exchange ideas.

Here are a few topics that you can use to start a conversation:

- I like/dislike my way to school, because...
- In my hometown, I get to school by...
- I think the public transportation here is...
- Eating habits (Take-away-food, regular meals, eating together)
- Daily schedule – morning, afternoon, evening
- Activities outside of school
- What I do in the evening...

Assignments

1. Make a short video or take a few pictures of your way to school and post them online and share them with your partner.
2. Write down what you like about the everyday life of your exchange partner.

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Assignment 1

Enter what you eat and drink and when in the weekly chart below.

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

Food

MORNING

Drink

Food

NOON

Drink

Food

EVENING

Drink

9. My diet in my exchange with e-Space

Today, I feel



because, ...

You can discuss this in writing online or over the phone. Agree on a suitable tool (*Portal, IG, Zoom, Google Meet, email, WhatsApp, etc.*). Here are a few topics you can use to start a conversation:

- How far is it to the supermarket from your home?
- In my family, we cook together/ cooking is done by one person.
- Favourite dishes
- Recycling at home
- Composting
- Storage and Re-use

Assignment 2

Draw your dream dish and share it with your partner.
What's in it and what's it called?

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

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10. Family

Today, I feel



because, ...

You can discuss this in writing online or over the phone. Agree on a suitable tool (*Portal, IG, Zoom, Google Meet, email, WhatsApp, etc.*). Here are a few topics you can use to start a conversation:

- What does "family" or becoming part of a new family mean to you?
- How much freedom do you have/ how much would you like to have compared to home? (being online, Tv, going out, screen time, playing etc.)
- How many people are in your family at home?
- What do you like most about your family?
- What is your role in the family (duties, responsibilities, etc.)?

Assignment

Describe at least 2 days of family life at home.
Exchange ideas with your partner: What is different and what do you have in common?

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11. Culture and society

Today, I feel



because, ...

You can discuss this in writing online or over the phone. Agree on a suitable tool (Portal, IG, Zoom, Google Meet, email, WhatsApp, etc). Here are a few topics you can use to start a conversation:

- These are the traditions and social structures I have come to know so far... (food, traffic, friendships, music, rules, etc.)
- Table manners
- Typical celebrations
- Jokes
- Sport events

Assignment

Write: What more would you like to know about the other culture? Where do you see similarities and differences? What would you find difficult to imagine if you lived in the other country?

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12. Language

Today, I feel



because, ...

Meet virtually for 10-20 minutes on a suitable tool such as *Skype*, *Google Meet*, *Zoom*, etc. to exchange ideas.

Here are a few topics you can use to start a conversation:

- The new language is... for me. (exhausting, inspiring, difficult, fun)
- I feel that I have learned a lot/very little linguistically because...
- What I like about the new language...
- The grammar is...
- My favourite word is...

Assignment

*Share three more phrases with each other.
And tell each other 1-2 jokes! Take notes here:*

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13. Sports

Today, I feel



because, ...

You can discuss this in writing online or over the phone. Agree on a suitable tool (*Portal, IG, Zoom, Google Meet, email, WhatsApp, etc.*). Here are a few topics you can use to start a conversation:

Assignment

Exchange information about the popular sports in your countries and watch a game from the other country. Explain the rules to each other. If you can watch a game together, that would be great! Please document this with pictures or videos and post them online. Here are a few ideas:

Football, Rugby, Lacrosse, Netball, Cycling, Handball, Cricket, Tennis, Swimming, Biathlon, Hockey, Athletics etc.

You can take notes here:

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14. Cooking

Today, I feel



because, ...

You can discuss this in writing online or over the phone. Agree on a suitable tool (*Portal, IG, Zoom, Google Meet, email, WhatsApp, etc.*). Here are a few topics you can use to start a conversation:

Assignment

If you can, find time to cook (live) together. Share your favourite dishes beforehand and agree on a dish that you will cook together. If that's not possible, you can also cook a dish on your own and share it with a video on TikTok, YouTube, or with photos. Feel free to do this task more than once. Here are a few ideas:

Sauerkraut, Döner-Kebab (vegetarian or with meat),
Mac 'n' Cheese, Knödel, Chicken Tikka Masala, Fish & Chips,
Nudelauflauf, aspargus, Weihnachtsplätzchen, scones, pies, etc.

You can take notes here:

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15. Feedback

Today, I feel



because, ...

Meet virtually for 10-20 minutes on a suitable tool such as *Skype*, *Google Meet*, *Zoom*, etc. to exchange ideas. Here are a few topics you can use to start a feedback conversation:

- What are you most proud of during your exchange?
- What could you personally still work on?
(confidence, courage, representing your opinion, giving and accepting feedback)
- What could be better and what was fun?
- Do you want to stay in touch with your exchange family?
- Have you been able to learn more of the language?

Bye!

Bis bald!

Talk soon!