

Name:

Date:

Forget the World Cup – for England it's all about Beating the Germans

Nick Amies

Nick Amies has been commenting on international football tournaments for DW-WORLD.DE since 2001. He is a life-long England supporter, and Germany detractor.

Every England fan takes great pleasure in watching and re-watching the 4–2 victory over Germany in the final of the 1966 World Cup. This is not only because this is the pinnacle of the national team's success to date, but also because in winning the World Cup, England stopped the Germans from lifting the trophy. It's a two-for-the-price-of-one bargain that never gets old.

This is where an England fan's indoctrination begins, with a joyous moment. Our national sporting obsession with Germany has its roots in happiness – in the gap-toothed smile and carefree jig of midfielder Nobby Stiles. The bitterness doesn't begin until you've been hooked and forced to watch more recent England vintages in the flesh. Then you have to admit that 1966 is as good as it gets. [...]

All of which brings us to Italia 90. Looking back, the only thing I now remember about that tournament is the Germans in full group hug mode as England's broken failures trudged from the pitch, vowing to practice penalties from now on. That penalty shoot-out defeat to Germany in a semi-final was traumatic, mainly because England looked as though they had a team good enough to win the cup for once.

When the European Championships came to England in 1996, the animosity towards Germany was still at a pretty low level, despite the tabloids' lazily digging up the war to try and get an already feverishly patriotic public ready for another semi-final clash against the Germans. Italia 90 was an aberration. We still had 1966 – which was only 30 years of hurt away at that point. Revenge would be ours because, you know, lightning couldn't strike twice ... could it?

From today's vantage point, there was more chance of lightning striking twice than England scoring two penalties.

Two spot kicks. Penalty taker against goalkeeper. It doesn't seem that hard, does it? And this was a team that knew the heartbreak of losing to the Germans on penalties. Surely they wouldn't let it happen again? History tells us that it did. It also tells us that after beating England, Germany went on to win the trophy, as they did in 1990 at the World Cup. [...]

Two soul-destroying defeats were enough to turn a little rivalry into a massive vendetta for the English. With the memory of 1966 dimming fast, all that most of us had actually experienced was getting beaten by the Germans.

For the Germans, however, England's obsession has never prompted anything other than mild bemusement. As far as the Germans are concerned, England are just another opponent, albeit one with a certain amount of history. There certainly isn't the rabid reaction in Germany to playing each other as there is in the UK.

Germany's grudge match is usually one played against their neighbors to the west in the Netherlands. Fans in Germany get excited about playing Holland in much the same way as Englishmen go loopy of the Germans.

This fact infuriates the English further. The rivalry should mean as much to the Germans as it means to us – otherwise what's the point of getting all stewed up about it? [...]

For England, beating Germany is the pinnacle of any campaign. That's why a turgid 1–0 win over one of Germany's worst-ever sides in Euro 2000 was celebrated like the Second Coming. It didn't matter that England were dreadful too – and weren't far behind Germany in getting knocked out of the tournament. We'd beaten the Germans. It was a hollow victory, but one still held close to English hearts.

Meager as it now sounds, a 5–1 demolition in Munich in a World Cup qualifier a year later was even better. It felt almost as good as 1966. Almost.

And so we meet again. It's 2010, and already the highlight reels from 44 years ago are being projected onto a new generation's formative inner eye, mythologizing events from ancient history and lionizing men who are either no longer with us or who now look very old indeed when wheeled out for comment whenever Germany and England clash.

The papers, of course, are beside themselves with glee. It's only a matter of time before we see distasteful war-related headlines in the red tops and the demonizing of young German players who don't much care about beating England, only about winning the World Cup.

This is what the coming match should be about for us England fans – about progressing and emulating the heroes of 1966. Instead it's about getting one over the Germans. That's what it's always about for England. We may beat Germany, but even then we'll probably meet an even stronger Argentina side, managed by a certain fat gaucho, who'll knock us out.

But we won't care. We'll have beaten the Germans. And that's all that matters.

From: www.dw-world.de, 26 June 2010

824 words

⁸ **Nobby Stiles = Norbert Peter Stiles** (born 1942) former English football player, who played in the World Cup final 1966

¹³ **penalty shootout** procedure in football tournaments to determine who progresses after a drawn match

²⁰ **lightning never strikes twice** an unpleasant event is not likely to happen again to the same people

⁵⁷ **'certain fat gaucho'** (*derog*) reference to Argentinian coach Diego Maradona who helped beating the English team with a goal scored with his hand in 1986

1 COMPREHENSION

Outline major points in the history of the German-English football rivalry.

2 COMPREHENSION

State different reasons for why the relationship between Germany and England in football is seen as a one-sided rivalry.

3 ANALYSIS

Describe the means that the author uses to show that he is personally affected by the situation.

4 ANALYSIS

Show how the structure of the text serves its purpose.

5 „KOMPLEXE AUFGABE“

Examine whether the text might also be of interest to somebody who is not too keen on football.

6 COMMENT/COMPOSITION

Read the following quotation by Gary Lineker. Discuss what it says about the British perception of Germany. Also explore aspects beyond the field of sport. Write at least 200 words.

'Soccer is a game for 22 people that run around, play the ball ... and in the end, Germany always wins.'

From: www.expertfootball.com

Gary Lineker (born 1960) former English football player

7 COMMENT/COMPOSITION

Germany's image worldwide is often connected to its past. Write an article for a quality newspaper reflecting on the role of the 'new Germany' in the world. Write at least 200 words.

8 COMMENT/COMPOSITION

The photograph below appears on the homepage of the German embassy in the USA.

Evaluate the choice of photo. Relate it to important aspects of the German-American relationship throughout history. Write at least 200 words.



From: dpa – Report

9 MEDIATING

In your English lessons you talk about the positive aspects of learning foreign languages. You have come across this article by the German essayist Bastian Sick and want to sum up the advantages he mentions for your course.

Zehn Gründe für Deutsch Bastian Sick



„Können Sie zehn gute Gründe nennen, Deutsch zu lernen?“, wurde ich unlängst in einem Interview gefragt. „Gleich zehn?“, fragte ich erschrocken, „müssen es so viele sein? Ich wäre ja schon froh, wenn mir nur drei einfielen!“ Immerhin leben in Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz und in ihren angrenzenden Regionen mehr als 100 Millionen Menschen, die mit Deutsch aufgewachsen sind. Wir sind also schon mal keine ganz kleine Sprachgemeinschaft, im Gegenteil: Innerhalb Europas ist Deutsch die Sprache mit den meisten Muttersprachlern, noch vor Englisch und Französisch.

Außerhalb Europas sieht es dann schon etwas anders aus; auf der Liste der Weltsprachen rangiert Deutsch weit hinter Englisch, Chinesisch und Hindi, aber immerhin noch unter den ersten zwölf, deutlich vor Japanisch, Koreanisch und Finnisch. Pardon, ich meinte: Finish, also das Ende der Liste. Wenn Schüler in anderen Ländern, zum Beispiel in Spanien oder Frankreich, sich zwischen Deutsch und einer anderen Fremdsprache entscheiden müssen, wählen sie oft die andere Fremdsprache. Deutsch ist nicht gerade die beliebteste Sprache. Und wenn man nachfragt, warum das so sei, bekommt man oft zu hören, Deutsch sei eben nicht ganz einfach. Zu viele Fälle, zu viele Geschlechter, zu viele Regeln, zu viele Ausnahmen. Das schreckt ab! Eigentlich sollte gerade das ein guter Grund sein, Deutsch zu lernen! Denn wer will schon etwas, das einfach ist? Einfach – das kann schließlich jeder. Wer Deutsch beherrscht, kann etwas Besonderes! Etwas, das nicht jeder kann. Nicht einmal jeder Deutsche. Englisch ist der Volkswagen unter den Sprachen, Deutsch der Rolls-Royce.

Zu den immer wieder genannten Vorurteilen über die deutsche Sprache gehört auch, dass sie keinen besonders schönen Klang habe. Sie sei bei Weitem nicht so melodios wie das Französische, nicht so weich wie das Englische, nicht so temperamentvoll wie das Italienische, nicht so schwermütig wie das Russische und nicht so angriffs-lustig wie das Japanische.

Deutsch, so wird behauptet, klinge eher wie eine Zementmischmaschine – oder wie eine Gruppe heiserer Gänse, die mit einem geklauten Zementmischer gegen einen Baum gerast ist. Doch wer sich ein bisschen genauer mit der deutschen Sprache auseinandersetzt, der wird im Klangspiel der Silben eine wunderbare, kraftvolle Schönheit erkennen. Wie bei jeder Sprache kommt es darauf an, wer sie spricht – und wie. Der Ton macht die Musik.

Darum ist Deutsch nicht von ungefähr lange Zeit die führende Sprache der Musik gewesen. Von Johann Sebastian Bach bis Johann Strauß: Deutsch war – und ist es noch heute – eine der wichtigsten Sprachen auf den Konzert- und Opernbühnen dieser Welt. Wer klassischen Gesang studiert, für den führt an Deutsch kein Weg vorbei. Doch auch Popmusik kann ein Grund sein, Deutsch zu lernen. Die Musik war der Grund, dass ich Französisch gelernt habe – das kann auch andersherum funktionieren. [...]

Gute Gründe, Deutsch zu lernen? So etwas fragt man am besten Menschen, die das Wagnis auf sich genommen haben, einen Deutschkursus zu absolvieren. Und die findet man fast überall auf der Welt: in Frankreich, in Spanien, in Russland, in Polen, in den Niederlanden, in Dänemark, in Chile, in Argentinien, in Afrika, in China, in Baden-Württemberg.

„Deutschland ist ein tolles Land!“, schwärmte mir unlängst eine ältere Dame in Buenos Aires vor, „ihr habt so viele Kulturgüter, so viele interessante Städte, so abwechslungsreiche Landschaften, die beste Infrastruktur weltweit!“ – „Sie sprechen von den Autobahnen, nehme ich an?“, fragte ich. Sie lächelte und sagte: „Ich meine vor allem die Apotheken! Alle 50 Meter eine

Apotheke – das gibt es in keinem anderen Land auf der Welt!“ [...]

Für viele junge Menschen in anderen Teilen der Welt ist Deutschland das Tor zu einer gesicherten Zukunft. Die Zahl derer, die sich Jahr für Jahr um ein Stipendium für einen Studienplatz in Deutschland bewerben, wächst stetig. Ob BWL, Maschinenbau, Medizin oder Geisteswissenschaften – Deutschland ist ein beliebter Studienort. Für viele andere ist Deutschland auch ein lebenswichtiger Arbeitsplatz. [...]

Meine Putzfrau kommt aus Polen und lernt fleißig Deutsch. [...] Eines Tages wird ihr Deutsch so perfekt sein wie ihre Bügelkünste, dann stehen ihr hier alle Türen offen, und sie wird mich verlassen für einen interessanteren Job als Assistentin irgendeines Talkshow-Moderators oder als Pressesprecherin eines Bundestagsabgeordneten, ich werde sie anflehen, zu bleiben, aber sie wird mir mit Blick auf das Bügelbrett zurufen: „Machen Sie sich gefälligst selbst!“, und ich werde völlig zerknittert zurückbleiben, davor graut mir jetzt schon. Deutsch eröffnet Karrieren – im deutschsprachigen Raum und darüber hinaus überall dort, wo deutsche Firmen ansässig sind oder wo sich deutsche Touristen tummeln.

Meine französische Freundin Suzanne sagte mir auf die Frage, was für sie der Grund gewesen sei, Deutsch zu lernen: „Der Grund, warum isch Deutsch gelernt ‘abe? Trotz alle die komplizierte Grammatik und die ‘arte Aussprache? Isch will es dir verraten: Mein Grund war groß und blauäugisch und ‘ieß Martin. Er war 24, wir ‘aben uns am Strand von Biarritz kennengelernt. Hmmm! Einen schöneren Grund, Deutsch zu lernen, gab es auf der ganzen Welt nischt!“ [...]

From: www.spiegel.de, 14 April 2010

795 words

10 MEDIATING

Track 4

Your grandparents remember the 1966 World Championship tournament. They would like to know what *Deutsche Welle* says about it. Write a summary of the radio broadcast for them in German.

11 LISTENING Track 4

You are going to listen to a radio broadcast on the upcoming match between England and Germany in the 2010 World Cup. While listening tick (✓) the correct answers. There is only one correct answer per question. You will hear the interview twice.

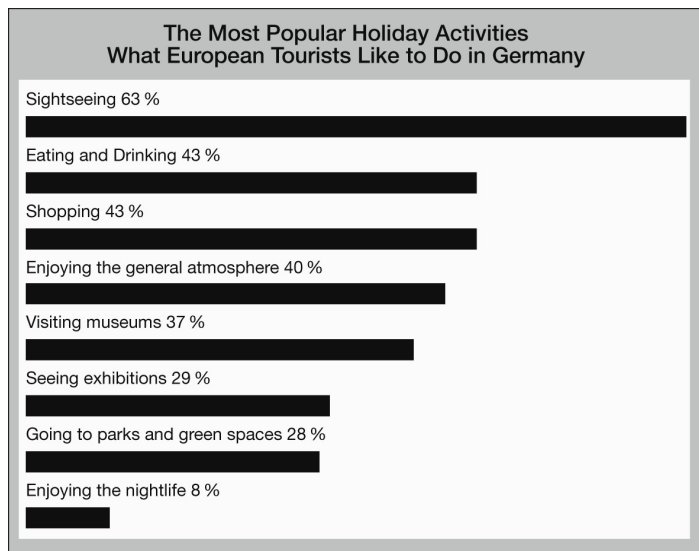
- 1 The match between England and Germany takes place on a
A Thursday
B Friday
C Saturday
D Sunday
- 2 Matt Hermann is
A an English soccer fan.
B a German soccer fan.
C an American sports editor.
D a German sports editor.
- 3 The second Englishman was feeling
A quite happy that they were going to meet Germany.
B quite happy that they weren't going to meet the US.
C deflated because England lost against the US.
D deflated because the Americans scored a goal.
- 4 England hasn't won against Germany in a World Cup match
A for 40 years.
B since the semi-finals of the 1970 World Cup.
C since the semi-finals of the 1990 World Cup.
D since 1996.
- 5 Lutz Kulling
A only heard about this famous match because he hadn't been born yet.
B passes the story about the match from generation to generation.
C was a child when the 1966 World Championships took place.
D told his son about the disputed goal.
- 6 Germans think that the reason for their decades of success over England is that
A Germany is better at penalty shoot-outs.
B England is suffering from the 'Wembley Goal Curse'.
C England is suffering from a psychological trauma.
D Germany is a bit better at playing football.
- 7 Before the World Cup match between the two teams, the British tabloids
A offended the German public with references to the Second World War.
B published pictures of wives and girlfriends of German players.
C referred to England and Germany as a clash of Titans.
D put all history aside.
- 8 Sue Cox says about England and Germany that
A they are quite similar.
B they actually get on well with each other.
C English and German fans obviously admire each other.
D they hate each other too much.

12 SPEAKING Dialogue (dialogisches Sprechen)

**Partner A**

Your school is hosting a group of English-speaking visitors.

a) Interpret the following statistics



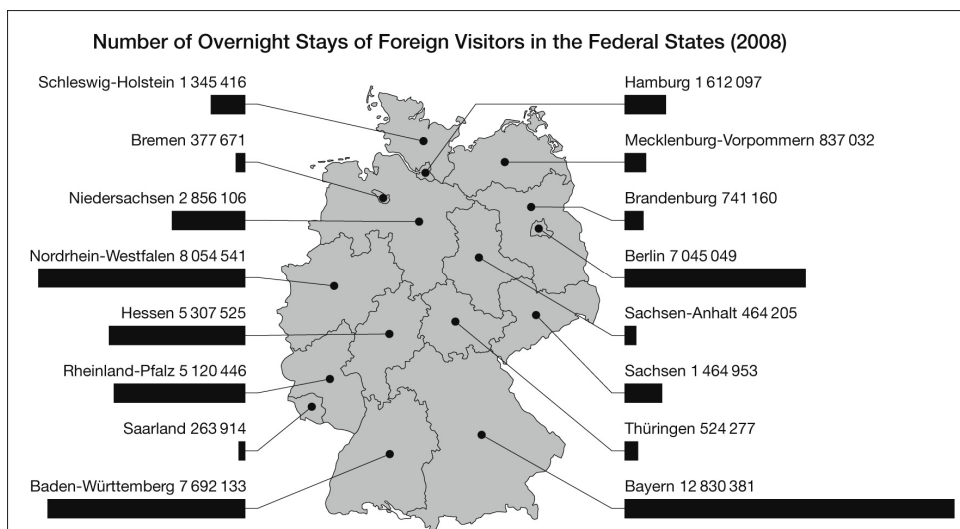
From: World Travel Monitor 2005, Statistisches Bundesamt 2005

b) Together with your partner, plan a stay in Germany for the visiting group and show them what 'your' Germany is like today.

Partner B

Your school is hosting a group of English-speaking visitors.

a) Interpret the following statistics



From: Statistisches Bundesamt 2008

b) Together with your partner, plan a stay in Germany for the visiting group and show them what 'your' Germany is like today.

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[unabridged]

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10 England didn't even show up for World Cup in 1974 or 1978 and our involvement in 1982 is best left unmentioned. The main recollections of 1986 are of a squat Argentinean bloke cheating us out of the tournament. At least the fat gaucho had a hand (not literally in this case) in beating the Germans in the final, so he couldn't have been all that bad.

15 Penalty pain

All of which brings us to Italia 90. Looking back, the only thing I now remember about that tournament is the Germans in full group hug mode as England's broken failures trudged from the pitch, vowing to practice penalties from now on. That penalty shoot-out defeat to Germany in a semi-final was traumatic, mainly because England looked as though they had a team 20 good enough to win the cup for once.

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One-sided 'rivalry'

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For the Germans, however, England's obsession has never prompted anything other than mild bemusement. As far as the Germans are concerned, England are just another opponent, albeit one with a certain amount of history. There certainly isn't the rabid reaction in Germany 40 to playing each other as there is in the UK.

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45 This fact infuriates the English further. The rivalry should mean as much to the Germans as it means to us – otherwise what's the point of getting all stewed up about it?

Taking what we can get

50 For England, beating Germany is the pinnacle of any campaign. That's why a turgid 1–0 win over one of Germany's worst-ever sides in Euro 2000 was celebrated like the Second Coming. It didn't matter that England were dreadful too – and weren't far behind Germany in getting knocked out of the tournament. We'd beaten the Germans. It was a hollow victory, but

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From: www.dw-world.de, 26 June 2010

896 words