

TalkTUM[i:]

The TUM Language Café on Campus Garching

1. Idea:

With the ongoing internationalization of universities, we experience a growing interest in other countries, cultures and languages. The TUM with approximately 6000 international students bears great potential to experience this world at one place. In the TUM Language Café we would like to bring together domestic and international students to experience other cultures, meet new people and strengthen their language skills in a relaxed and informal way.

Next to the well established Language Café on the Main Campus, there will now also be a Café on Garching Campus, organised by the Departments of Informatics and Physics, together with TUMi.

2. Concept:

Different languages will be offered by native speakers at various language tables. The group size per table should be around 4-8 people. The café will take place for two hours each week in the main entrance hall (Magistrale) in the Informatics Building.

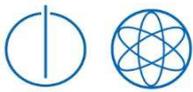
3. Role of Native Speaker:

- Welcoming participants at the language table
- Getting discussions started and keep it lively if necessary (e.g. by introducing new topics)
- Assist in terms of grammar and vocabulary (if possible)
- Give feedback and answer question regarding language and culture (if possible)

3.1 Discussion Starters

We have pulled together some Ideas and topics which can be used by the native speakers to get the discussion started and to keep the chat lively.

- Introduction of every participant. Further questions could be:
 - Who is who? What do you study? Where are you from?...
 - What are your reasons for joining the language café?
 - What languages do you know?
 - What is your most enjoyable experience of languages and/or cultures?



- Select items from the respective media of your home country and discuss them with the group. If you want to print out something, please let us know, we can do that for you
- Compare your likes and dislikes, e.g. I really hate it when...
- Talk about your holidays/job/hobbies etc.
- Talk about music, cinema, sports, etc.
- Take it in turns to talk about your travels, favorite food, your last cooking experience, etc.
- Talk about the challenges and funny moments in Germany or in the respective country of your table
- Discuss what you would do if you won the lottery
- Ask the participants of 5 items that mean a lot to them and let them describe them
- What 8 items would you take on a desert island with you and why?
- Make word maps. Write one word and then try to find as many related words and expressions as possible.
- Make up a quiz on an agreed topic

3.2 Games

If you feel like doing some games, here are some ideas. Unfortunately, we have no games at hand, like taboo or scrabble for example. If you have something at home in your respective language, please feel free to bring them along:

- Charades – mime an activity/word/film/book etc
- Taboo (have picture cards, pick a card, try to explain the picture without using any proper nouns)
- Memory games – place a collection of items on a tray, spend 5 minutes naming the items and trying to remember them. Cover the tray and see who can remember the most items.
- Pictionary (pull a card with a word on it and draw a picture to help the others guess what the word is)
- Word association game – one person chooses a word, the next has to find a word that is associated with it and so on
- Scrabble
- Who's who? Someone thinks of a famous person and the rest have to ask questions to find out who it is (these can only be answered yes/no) – You could also pin a post-it on each forehead with the name of a famous person. This person then has to ask the other participants questions in order to find out, who he is.
- Broken phone – whisper a sentence or a short story to

your neighbor. This is continued around the group and the last person tells the sentence or story out loud so that everyone sees how it compares to the original.

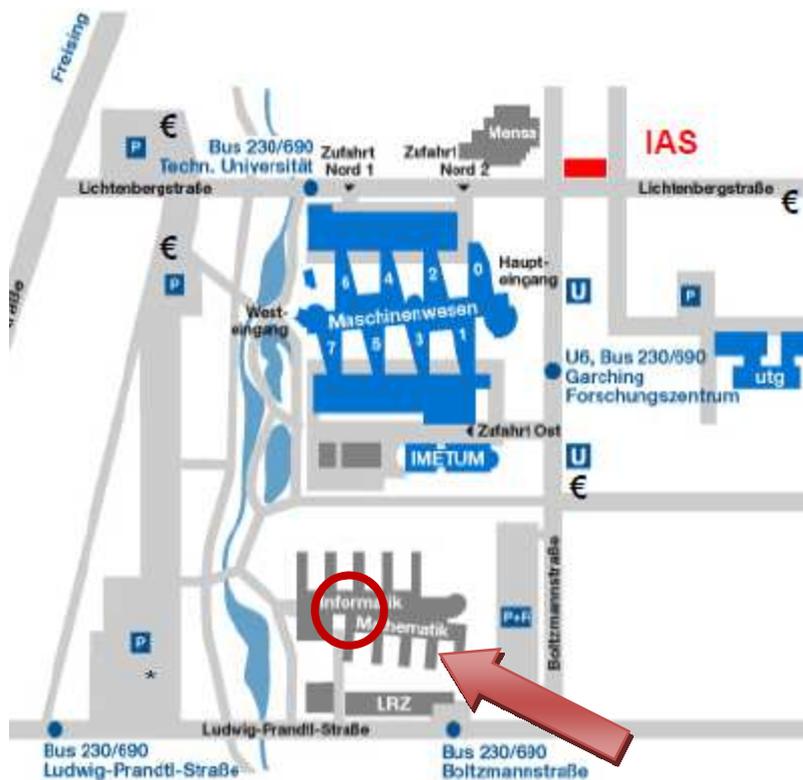
- “I am going on a picnic/trip/boat and I am going to bring...”
- Start with items beginning with ‘a’ and each person adds an item and tries to remember every preceding item until you reach the end of the alphabet.
- “Am I telling the truth?” Each person has a small item with him/her and tells a short story about it. If they have no item at hand, the participants can just tell of which item they are thinking of and then tell the story. The others have to guess if the story is true or not.

4. When and where?

Every Wednesday, 3:00-5.30 pm

Maths and Informatics Building, Main Entrance Hall (Magistrale)

Campus Garching



Maths and Informatics Building, around the tree in the Magistrale