

Daniel W. Galef
 475 rue Sherbrooke Ouest
 Room 1510
 Montreal, QC H3A 2L9

e-mail DWG314159@earthlink.net
 McGill University

Ei Bin Der, Ei Dann Dat

Words (German and English) that share both a spelling (for purposes of denotation, “ß” can be either “s” or “ss” and vowels with umlauts equate to the same vowel plus an “e”) and a pronunciation (roughly). After the word are given, respectively, translations: first German to English, then English to German. These are by no means precise or definitive, but serve as a general indicator. Entries marked with an asterisk are dialectal, colloquial, nonstandard, vernacular, or variants.

WORD/T	G-E	E-G
Alt	old (adj)	Umschalter, Feststeller (n)*
Bald	soon (adj/adv)	kahl (adj)
Bier	beer (n)	Bahre (n)
Bin	am (v)	Schachtel (n)
Dick	thick (adj), thickly (adv)	(n)*
Elf	eleven (#)	Elf (n)
Es	it (pron)	S (letter)
Ess	eat (v)	S (letter)
Fall	instance (n)	Herbst (n), fallen (v)
Fest	fast (adj), quickly (adv)	Fest (n)
Gar	absolutely (adv)	Fisch (n)
Gift	poison (n)	Geschenk (n), geschenken (v)
Gro[ss/ß]	large (adj)	ekelhaft (adj), Gros (n)
Hart	hard (adj), difficultly (adv)	Roe (n)
Heft	notebook (n)	Gewicht (n), heben (v)
Hei[s/ß]t	is named (v)	Verbreche (n)
Hell	light (adj)	Hölle (n)
Holt	gets (v)	Walde (n)
Links	left (adj)	Verbindungen (n), verbinden (v)
Mi	me (pron)*	Mi (n)
Mist	(n)*	Nebel (n)
Tier	animal (n)	Etage (n)
Toll	great (adj), well (adv)	Abgabe (n), klingeln (v)

Words (following the above criteria and listed in the aforementioned format) in German and English that share a spelling, but not a pronunciation. Note: as above, words are only listed if they are not cognates.

WORDT	G-E	E-G
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Am	on the (prep)	bin (v)
An	on (prep)	ein (art)
Beer	berry (n)	Bier (n)
Boot	boat (n)	Schuh (n)
Dank	thank (v)	feucht (adj)
Die	the (art), that (art)	toten (v)
Er	he (pron), it (pron)	ähm (spacer)
Fast	almost (adv)	schnell (adj), fasten (v)
Fasten	fast (v)	verbinden (v)
Fern	far (adj/prep)	Pflanz (n)
Gang	motion (n)	Mannschaft (n)
Gut	good (adj), well (adv)	Bauch (n)
Hat	has (v)	Hut (n)
Hut	hat (n)	Haus (n)
Kind	child (n)	nett (adj)
Lass	let (v)	Mädchen (n)
Liest	read[s] (v)	liegst (v)*
Mutter	mother (n)	brummen (v)
Pass	suit (v)	passieren (v)
Rad	wheel (n)	schwül (adj)*
Rind	ox (n)	Rinde (n)
Rock	skirt (n)	Stein (n)
Rot	red (adj)	verderben (v)
Sag	say (v)	sinken (v)
See	sea (n), lake (n)	sehen (v), Bischofssitz (n)
Stab	wand (n)	stechen (v)
Stern	star (n)	streng (adj)
Tag	day (n)	Marke (n)
Tee	tea (n)	T (letter), Hemd (n)
Tot	dead (adj), (v)	Kind (n)
Tote	die (v)	tragen (v)
Tut	does (v)	\sei ruhig/ (v)
Um	around (prep)	ähm (spacer)
Wand	wall (n)	Stab (n)
War	was (v)	Krieg (n)
Wart	wait (v)	Warze (n)
Welt	world (n)	Narbe (n)
Wetter	weather (n)	naßer (adj)
Will	want (v)	werden (v)

Of additional note above are those words which appear more than once, either on the same or different lists. These include “Beer” and “Bier,” both acting as words both in English and German, and being linked to each other in meaning (the English word “beer” is synonymous with the German word “Bier”). Also, “Hat” and “Hut” share a similar condition: both are words in both languages, and they share a meaning in one configuration (the English word “hat” is

synonymous with the German word “Hut”). Again, the many hundreds, if not thousands, of words in the languages that share a spelling and/or pronunciation and are etymologically related are not listed in any list (however, a few exceptions should be noted: “Schmuck,” which comes to English through Yiddish, and there from German, while obviously a cognate, is notable merely for its impressive disparity in meanings in the two tongues; likewise, “Gift,” while appearing in the list, has two too different [even, perhaps, ironic or humourous] meanings not to include). Also of interest may be the far longer list of words that share pronunciation alone. The following does not give translations and has far laxer standards for consideration, in light of the varying pronunciations in either language. Here, words will only be capitalized if they are capitalized in the particular language in which they appear. The same restrictions, if a tad more loose, apply. First is listed the German word, then the English. If a homophone exists for a word that does not meet restrictions, it is noted alongside that that does.

WORT WORD

Beer (n)	bear (n) and/or bare (adj)
Bett (n)	bet (n and/or v)
Bild (n)	build (n and/or v) and/or billed (v)
blieb (v)	bleep
dank (v)	dunk (v)
dein (pron)	dine (v)
deiner (pron)	diner (n)
di (pron)*	dee (letter) [D]
dich (pron)	dish (n and/or v)
die (art)	dee (letter) [D]
dir (pron)	dear (adj) and/or deer (n)
drei (#)	dry (adj)
du (pron)	do (v) and/or doo (n)
ehr (adj)	air (n and/or v) and/or heir (n)
Ei (n)	I (pron) and/or eye (n and/or v)
Eier (n)	ire (n)
er (pron)	air (n and/or v) and/or heir (n)
Erd (n)	aired (v)
fahr (v)	far (adj and/or adv)
faul (adj)	foul (adj) and/or fowl (n)
fehlt (v)	felt (n) and/or felt (v)
Feier	fire (n and/or v)
Feuer (n)	foyer (n)
frei (adj)	fry (v and/or n)
froh (adj)	fro (prep) and/or 'fro (n)*
fühl (v)	fool (n and/or v) and/or fuel (n and/or v)
für (prep)	four (#) [NOT for (prep)]
Gang (n)	gong (n)
geh (v)	gay (adj)
Graf (n)	graph (n and/or v)

Hemd (n)	hemmed (v)
hor (v)	hoar (n) and/or whore (n and/or v)
Hut (n)	hoot (n and/or v)
Ihr (pron) and/or ihr (pron)	ear (n and/or v)
in (prep)	inn (n) [NOT in (prep)]
Klee (n)	clay (n)
krank (adj)	crank (n and/or v)
Kreises (n)	crisis (n)
Kuh (n)	coup (n and/or v) and/or coo (n and/or v)
Kuli (n)	coolie/coolly (n)*
lasst (v)	last (adj and/or v) and/or lost (v)
Leid (n)	lied (v)
Lied (n)	lead (v)
liest (v)	least (adj)
Mai (n)	my (pron)
Meer (n)	mare (n)
mehr (adj)	mare (n)
mein (pron)	mine (n) [NOT mine (pron)]
meiner (pron)	miner (n) and/or minor (n and/or adj)
mir (pron)	mere(adj) and/or MIR (n)*
Mist (n)*	missed (v)
mit (prep)	mitt (n)
nein	nine (#)
nett (adj and/or adv)	net (n and/or v)
Ohr (n)	or (con) and/or Or (n and/or adj)*
passt (v)	past (n and/or prep) and/or passed (v)
Pickel (n)	pickle (n)
Platz (n) [NOT platz (v)]	plotz (v)* and/or plots (n and/or v)
Pulli (n)*	pulley (n)
Reis (n) [NOT Reis (n)] and/or reis (v)	rice (n)
reit (v)	write (v) and/or right (v and/or adv and/or adj) and/or wright (n)
rot (adj)	rote
Schaft (n)	shaft (n and/or v)
Schein (n) [NOT schein (v)]	shine (n and/or v)
Sie (pron) and/or sie (pron)	zee (letter) [Z]
Teil (n)	tile (n and/or v)
tot (adj)	tote (v)
Trank (n) and/or trank (v)	trunk (n)
trotz (prep)	trots (v)
tun (v)	tune (n and/or v) and/or 'toon (n)*
Tür (n)	tour (n and/or v)
tut (v)	toot (v)
Uhr (n)	or (con) and/or Or (n and/or adj)*
viel (adj)	feel (v and/or n)
vier (#)	fear (n and/or v)

weil (con)	vile (adj) and/or vial (n)
wie	vee (letter) [V]
will (v)	ville (n)
wir (pron)	veer (v)
wird (v)	veered (v)

Again, many words appear from earlier, including: Beer, dank, die, er, liest, Mist, passen, rot, toten, trunk, tut, and will. Also, within this list and the others are relationships of meaning, as before: "froh" means "gay," "Hemd" means "Tee," "Feuer" means "fire," "vier" means "four," etc.. In the previous list, one could add translations for each term into the other language, but, with the list's length and extraneousness, the act seems unimportant.

Of course, relaxing the standards even more garners hundreds more in any way, for example, allowing initial esses to be vocalized (See, seh, sei, seid, sein, sind, Sinn, so) or turned to sh's, and there are dozens of words that would be allowed simply if umlauts were ignored, such as "für" and "Bär" (both of which, interestingly enough, appear already on the lists or as meanings of words on the lists). There are also many words that sound similar enough to be interesting, but not pass in any scientific way. These are merely useful because they tend to be longer and more amusing than any that are more precise, such as a one-quarter-size violin being a viertel-fiddle (registering 0.25 on the Geige-counter), or remembering to add more baking soda next time, but weniger vinegar (so the dish doesn't platz' in platz). Then there are terms just too related, even if differing in meaning, to include, such as "Schipper," which means not "shipper" but "captain," obviously, however, having the same roots through "ship" and "Schipp," and sounding too close to "skipper." All of these almost-were-s feel like they should fit somewhere in the lists, but simply don't. Got damit.

POETIC QUIZ

ANN-RULON MILLER
Naples, Florida

Maybe feet,
Maybe rods –
Lots of teams,
Hope for pods -