

# Open Your Heart

Germany for beginners

# **Being tolerant**

Tolerance makes it possible for people to coexist peacefully. It is the basis for a fair society in which everyone can lead their lives as they wish.

Tolerance is an important concept that helps people to live together peacefully. To be tolerant means that you accept other people's opinions and preferences, even when they live in a way that you don't agree with. Tolerance also means that you don't put your opinions above those of others, even when you are sure that you are right. Tolerant people show strength in that they can deal with different opinions and perspectives.

### Freedom through tolerance

Tolerance doesn't just make peaceful coexistence possible, another advantage is that being open to other ways of thinking can help with personal development. When you know more about different thinking and ideas from around the world, it will help you to understand the world better.

Teaching children about tolerance is the best gift that you can give them. Children shouldn't grow up with feelings of hate and suspicion. Children who grow up with hate and jealously of others turn into unhappy people. And children who are forced to believe certain opinions will develop into people who aren't free or independent thinkers. If children experience love and tolerance, they will be able to grow up and lead a happy and peaceful life.

#### Curiosity about new ideas

Tolerance is an important aspect of German society, even if there are people here who, for example, are intolerant toward migrants. The majority of people in Germany are very open and tolerant toward people from other cultures. They accept different traditions and customs, as long as they don't break the rules in Germany.

In most cases, a lack of tolerance is the result of fear and ignorance towards the unknown. Curiosity and the readiness to learn about new worlds, ideas and ways of thinking can help people be more tolerant. When someone learns more about people from foreign cultures, they also lose their fear of the unknown. Many Germans who have a lot of contact with people from around the world also have an open attitude. It is indeed helpful for people who are new in Germany to have a lot of contact with Germans. It helps both sides to become familiar with each other and eventually understand each other's lifestyle.



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# Accepting the values of others

It isn't simple to be a tolerant person. It is okay to stick to your own values, but it makes sense to evaluate your values, especially if they are having an effect on others. It needs to be clear that everyone has their own opinions and values and that these need to be respected and accepted. If we want to live in a peaceful society, there is no alternative to tolerance.

# Suggested links:

UNESCO's declaration of the values of tolerance