

Lesson plan Schultüte

By the end of the session, learners will have an understanding of how the first day at school is celebrated in Germany and have an opportunity to compare it with their experiences. They will know what a Schultüte is and be able to name some items in German that might be found inside one. Learners will also follow simple instructions to make their own Schultüte.

Slide 1 and 2

Open the session by asking learners:
Do you remember your first day at school?
How did you feel?
What happened?

They could discuss this in pairs then volunteers could feed back or you could pose the questions to the whole group. Perhaps share memories of your own, be that your own, those of your children/relatives, or those from your teaching experience
Introduce the session by sharing the info on Slide 2.

Linguistic point:

On Slide 1 look at the word Schultag (pronounced Shool targ)– that literally means SchoolDay. Can you see the similarity between the words in English and German? Also, the word for German in German is Deutsch. Can you see how the name of the country is Deutschland? So we could literally translate it German land or land/country of German!

Slide 3

These children are about to start school for the first time. In German the word for someone who is about to start school is Der Schulanfänger (pronounced dair Shool an- feng -e) (boy) or Die Schulanfängerin (pronounced dee Shool an-feng-erin) (girl)

Linguistic point:

Discuss with the students the difference – why do they think there are two words? Male and Female.

Discuss how words in German have a gender which changes the spelling and pronunciation

Slide 4

Translation of the slide title:
The first day of school in Germany

Read the German sentences aloud to the pupils.
Ask them if they have any ideas what they might mean.
Remind them of the words they have already met:
Deutschland – Germany.
Die Schule – school (pronounced dee shool-e)
Ask leading questions to help!

1. In Deutschland gehen Kinder **mit 6 Jahren** in die Schule.
In Germany, children go to school when they are 6 years old.

Ask how old are children when they start school in Germany? They're 6

2. Die Kinder gehen in die **Grundschule**.

Children go to primary school.

What do you think the word in German for a primary school is?

Grundschule (*learners might make an association with the word "ground" as it's where you start!*)

3. Es gibt **keine Schuluniform**.

There is no school uniform.

And what do you think the last sentence is talking about?

School uniform.

Looking at the picture, do you think German children wear a school uniform? They don't!

You might want to have a short discussion about whether this is a good or bad idea!

You might also want to comment on the big sturdy rucksacks that the children have in the photograph. These are very typical of Germany – and also other German speaking countries like Austria and Switzerland.

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Slide 5

Read the slide title –

Am ersten Schultag gibt es eine Schultüte – *On the first day there is a Schultüte* (pronounced school-toot-e) Ask learners to look at what the children are holding (the image on Slide 3 of the children sat on the grass may be clearer if learners can't see the Schultüten very well. What do they think it is? Have they ever seen anything like it before?

Learners might associate them with birthday parties and sweets.

Explain that these are big brightly decorated paper cones that are a traditional present on the first day of school. They are full of gifts for : der Schulanfänger (masculine) or die Schulanfängerin (feminine).

Slide 6

Here is a little boy called Clemens on his first day at school. Ask learners to talk to their partner about the images. What can they see? What do they think? Finish with asking who they think the adults in the photos are – they're his parents. This leads us to...

Slide 7

Die Familienfeier – the family party

It is very traditional to have a big party to celebrate a child's first day at school, just as we might have a party for a baptism or birthday or other special event. A family party is a very important part of the day – everyone dresses up and makes a big fuss of the school starter.

Slide 8

And a huge part of this is the Schultüte Shops are full of them to buy, in all different colours and designs. Some are patterned, some have childhood characters on them. Clemens had a Minion on his – see if the learners noticed!

It's also called a Zuckertüte – Zucker means sugar – can you work out why it might be called that?

Linguistic point – can you see the relationship between sugar and Zucker?

Slide 9

Read the slide in German to the learners – ask if they can work out any of the words. Most probably they'll see/hear Tradition – tradition and may see the relationship between lange and long. Die Schultüte hat eine lange Tradition – *The Schultüte has a long tradition*

Look at the next two sentences.

Translation:

Es gibt sie seit 1820. – *They have been around since 1820.*

Sie soll den ersten Tag leichter machen! – *They should make the first day [of school] easier.*

How long have Schultüte been around? Learners should recognize 1820 as a year and make the connection. You could do some maths and work out how long it is since the tradition began, and perhaps comment on the photos of Schultüten through the years!

Slide 10

Was kommt in die Schultüte? – *What is/comes in the Schultüte?*

Let's go back to our discussions before about where we have seen similar things to a Schultüte. What was in the similar things we've seen?

What do you think might be in a German child's Schultüte as they start school?

You could ask learners to discuss with a partner/in a small group and perhaps make a list, or you could have a whole class discussion, making a possible list on the whiteboard or flipchart.

If learners need a bit of guidance, remind them that it's to make starting school easier so the contents could be practical as well as fun. Also, look at the size of the Tüte – it's quite big so it probably contains more than sweets!

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Slide 11 shows the contents of one Schultüte.

Talk your way around the contents

Sweets and lollipops, and crisps

School supplies like pens, pencils, sharpener, coloured pencils, a mini blackboard and chalk, ruler

Games like a Rubiks cube, an aeroplane, a ball, a

spinning top, bubbles and a balloon

A reflective tag for their bag, a lanyard with a name tag

on it, and a water bottle

The German for some of these items is on the slide.

We will look at the names of other items in the next few slides.

Spielzeug – toy (or literally plaything)

Bleistift und Kuli – pencil and pen

Buntstifte – coloured pencils (bunt=colourful)

Süßigkeiten – sweet things

Linguistic note – draw learners' attention to the ß in Süßigkeiten. This is a special letter in German that can also be written as ss so Süßigkeiten could also be written Süssigkeiten

Slide 12 and 13 focus on some German learning. On the grid are a number of items that a Schulanfänger might receive in their Schultüte

Slide 12

Ask learners to look at the words and guess what the items might be. See how many connections they can find between the German words and English (or any other language they speak!) Some were on the previous page. Can they remember any of those words? Can they work out the other items? Point them towards Schokolade = chocolate, Lineal = ruler (writes a line) Buch (if you say it, it may be easier!) then Notizbuch – a note book. They might also comment on Radiergummi – like a gummibear?!

Reveal the images. Were they correct?

Read the German words and ask learners to repeat them after you. Ask questions to allow them to memorise the words

For example:

What is a Heft? An exercise book

What are Buntstifte? Coloured pencils

How do you say a ruler in German? Lineal

Give me the name of something you might write with in German? Bleistift, Kuli, Buntstifte

Slide 13 gives you the opportunity to play with the vocabulary.

Name the item in German. You could give learners all the words and ask them to match them to the pictures. You could say an item and the learners write down or say the number – in English or German.

You could say the number and they say the item in German NB this version of the game requires more time and perhaps a bit of prior experience of German!

Slide 14 and 15 explain how to make a simple Schultüte.

All the items needed are listed and illustrated in German on slide 14

The instructions are in English on Slide 15.

This could be done as part of the lesson or as an extra activity as follow up.

Step 3 where you glue the semicircle into a cone may need support, especially if you use heavyweight card, and you have to hold the edges for a bit whilst they stick! The addition of a staple adds extra security!

And then it's time to fill the Schultüte with goodies!

Why not ask learners to decorate their Schultüten with the German vocabulary that they have learned during the session?

Slide 16 gives some vocabulary the help with this. It includes some items that are available from the Goethe Institut – stickers and badges, balloons and bracelets. <https://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/spr/unt/kum/wer.html>