

# Hot off the Press 21!

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When you want to say “Happy New Year” to someone in German, you will most often use the phrase *Frohes neues Jahr*. Yet, when you’re in different regions of Germany or other German-speaking countries, you may hear different ways to wish someone well in the new year.

Augsburg University in Bavaria conducted a study to find out which New Year’s greetings dominated certain regions in Germany. The results are quite interesting, with some areas of Germany sticking with tradition, while others offer variations of the greeting.

## “Frohes Neues Jahr”

The German expression, *Frohes neues Jahr* literally translates to “Happy New Year.” It is widely used in German-speaking countries, particularly in the northern and western states of Germany. This phrase is most common in northern Hesse (the home of Frankfurt), Lower Saxony (including the cities of Hanover and Bremen), Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (the coastal state along the Baltic Sea), and Schleswig-Holstein (the state that borders Denmark).

As often happens, some Germans prefer a shorter version and will simply use *Frohes neues*. This is especially true in many areas of Hesse and in the wine country of Mittelrhein.

## “Prosit Neujahr”

It is becoming increasingly more common for many German speakers to use *Prosit Neujahr* instead of the traditional “Happy New Year.” In German, *prosit* means “cheers” and *neujahr* is a compound word for “new year.”

This phrase is scattered regionally and is often used in the area around the northern city of Hamburg and northwestern Lower Saxony. You will also likely hear it in many parts of western Germany, particularly around the city of Mannheim. There is also a smattering of its usage in the southeastern region of Germany in the state of Bayern. This may be due, in part, to an influence from eastern Austria and Vienna, where *Prosit Neujahr* is also a popular greeting.

## “Gesundes Neues Jahr”

The German phrase *Gesundes neues Jahr* translates to “Healthy New Year.” You will hear this greeting most often when traveling through eastern regions of Germany, including the cities of Dresden and Nuremberg as well as the Franconia region in the south-central part of Germany. It may also be shortened to *Gesundes neues*.

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## “Gutes Neues Jahr”

Meaning “Good New Year,” the German phrase *Gutes neues Jahr* is also popular. This version is most often used in the country of Austria.

In Switzerland and the German state of Baden-Württemberg in the southwest corner of the country, you may hear this phrase shortened to *Gutes neues*. It’s also possible that you’ll hear this saying in the state of Bavaria, which includes Munich and Nuremberg. Yet, it’s most often concentrated to the south, closer to the Austrian border.

## NEW GERMAN TV SERIES is beginning on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January – “Dark Woods”

The first episode is on **More4 at 9pm**, but as it’s a “Walter presents” it may then just be available on **All4**. It is set near Hamburg and is based on real murder cases in the 1980s.

## A NEW FILM called ‘MUNICH: the edge of War’



It’s based on Robert Harris’s 2018 novel “Munich” and is in English but has a German Director (Christian Schwochow) and some German actors (Jannis Niewöhner playing Paul Von Hartmann and Ulrich Matthes playing Hitler). The main British actors are Jeremy Irons playing Neville Chamberlain and George MacKay playing his secretary Hugh Legat.

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