

Our Durmerscher dialect - Auser Durmerscher Schbrôôch!

(It is very difficult to translate a dialect into a foreign language - we ask for your understanding!)

We Southern Germans can make as much effort as we want in High German - the unmistakable accent in our language betrays our origins. And often we are smiled at by the "Northern Lights". Or what is even worse: We are called "Swabians"!

And yet outsiders may not even be aware that our dialects are true high-level languages, with their own vocabulary and grammar.

To say that we speak "Badisch" would be inaccurate. Because in Baden, which is not a historically grown tribal area, different language directions meet.

From the Main to Lake Constance you will find East Franconian, South Franconian, Kurpfälzisch, Schwäbisch, Niederalemannisch and Hochalemannisch. A colourful confusion of dialects, which also mixes at the borders.

So it is also with our "Durmerscher dialect", which is South Franconian structured and since it passes over into the Alemannic language area also of it different elements took up. So we say e.g. "Huus" (house) and "Liib" (body) in Alemannic, while our "gwä" (been) and "ghadd" (had) are Franconian words.

It is also not the case that we in Durmersheim "d'gliche Schbrôôch schwädze" like our neighbouring villages. One immediately hears whether someone comes from Edje, Biedje, Elise, Meersch, Au, Forche or Bruchhiese - all villages within a radius of a few kilometres and yet with completely different dialects.

Language is always shaped and formed by the lives of people. Customs and traditions, handicraft and agricultural activities as well as family habits are reflected in language. In addition, there are many imaginative word creations, often bound to a specific place, such as Gnailefeiz, which means a dipfeleschisser, i.e. a hairsplitter.

A dialect also changes constantly due to new influences. Technical innovations, professional circumstances and the mixing with speakers of other languages lead to dialects adapting more and more to the high-level language. Today's colloquial language, which is mostly coloured in dialect, is considered by many to be the dialect par excellence.

What are the typical basic structures of our dialect?

Hard consonants are pronounced softly: p, t, k become b, d, g. Papa "isch de Babbe", grandpa is called "Obba", deep "dief" and tuber become "Gnolle".

The ö is replaced by an e (depf instead of pots) and the ü becomes i (diir instead of door).

"Äu" and "eu" are transformed differently. Trees (Bäume) become "Bääm", a runner (Läufer) becomes a "Lô(i)fer" (difficult to pronounce), the bag(Beutel) is called "Beidel", but the Büttel is called Biddel. The udder (Euter) is called "Idder", so there is no confusion with pus (Eiter), which is called "Ôô(i)der" anyway.

Our dialect also has no genitive. This is replaced by the dative: "The house of my father" is then called "Meim Vadder sei Huus".

Relative sentences elegantly become typical South German "Where sentences": "The man who walks there has O-legs." The result: "De Mõnn, wu (wo-where) derd laafd, hadd O-Fiiß."

The foot reaches from the hip to the heel. That's why you shouldn't be surprised when you hear in Durmersche: Heid duud m'r ôm Gnie de Fuß weh (Today I have pain in my knee).

And that brings us to the difficult question of how to spell dialect. There are scientific treatises, even dialect spelling rules, but there is still a lot of difference in dialect literature.

It is sufficient to add a "Ô" or "ô" to the normal letters of the alphabet. This sound lies between "O" and "A", but here and there an "r" or even a light "i" can resonate.

Long vowels are doubled (Baad - bath), followed by a double consonant (gäwwe - give).

An additional grammatical feature is the use of times. The imperfect, i.e. the past, is hardly ever used. A Durmerscher did not "drive" to Karlsruhe yesterday: Geschdern isch-er nô(a)ch Karlsruh' naagfahn.

"Äbbes", or also "äwwes", is a universally usable word that always and everywhere fits and can have many meanings.

It is difficult for a stranger to learn Badisch or Durmerisch. Anyone who has not grown up in the village but is a "zuzooner" will seldom be able to speak without an accent.

Conversely, a Durmerscher can sometimes not understand the High German how a woman from the far north had to experience. When she asked the invited children to hold hands at the children's birthday party, the little ones did not react. Until someone said, "Heewed eich!" and everyone stood there holding hands. Holding means lifting "uff Durmerscherisch".

By the way, the experts do not agree whether it is called Durmersche or Dôrmersche, Durmerscherisch or Dôrmerscherisch or even Durmerisch or Dômerisch.

But it should not be deepened here whether "Ewwerdeefler ôngerscd schwädze wie Hingerdeefler odder Ungerdeefler".

To deepen your knowledge we recommend the page [Local history Durmersheim > Bäredriewer](#)