**English and German: Family Tie**

1. **Continuous tenses**

There’s a German verb form that’s equivalent to the English continuous form. For example: *Ich bin am Arbeiten. Wir sind am Gehen. Ich war (gerade) am Kochen, als*… Once you point this out to German speakers, they often find it easier to get their head around the concept of the continuous tenses.

1. **Adverbs**
How do you make your German-speaking learners aware of the use of English adverbs? Try this: Ask them to combine these two sentences: *Ich habe mein Autoschlüssel im Büro vergessen.* *Das war dumm.* They will say: *Ich habe dummerweise meine Autoschlüssel im Büro vergessen*. This is because German speakers change adjectives into adverbs with “-weise” when they comment on complete sentences. Explain that “-weise” in such cases corresponds to the English adverb form “-ly”.
2. **Cognates**

English and German are full of cognates – that is, words that look alike, sound alike and mean the same thing. For example: hand-Hand, cat-Katze, house-Haus, brother-Bruder. Introducing cognates to your German-speaking learners will make it easier for them to start learning English and increase their motivation.