

## **GERMAN WORD USED ON DOCUMENTS**

### **Words Found On a Marriage Record**

Kirchspiel = parish  
Dom = cathedral  
Heiratsdatum or Heiraten marriage date  
Auszug = extract  
Bescheinigung = certificate  
Trauregister = wedding register  
Advokat = lawyer  
Heiraths-Listen = marriage list  
Ordnungs-No. = order number  
Alphabetisch(es) = alphabetic  
Vornamen = first Name  
Familiennamen = family Name  
Des Bräutigams = of the groom  
Der Braut = of the bride  
Vater = father  
Mutter mother  
Söhn von = son of  
Töchter von = daughters of

### **Words Found On A Birth Record**

Geb. Geburten or Geburtsdatum = birth date  
Taufdatum = christening date  
Vater = father  
Mutter = mother  
Vornamen = first Name  
Familiennamen = family name  
Ort der Geburt = place of birth  
ehelich geboren den zwoelften = the baby was marry/matrimonially born at the 12 from the month  
Alter = age  
Ein Knabe = a boy  
Ein Mädchen = a girl  
Geburtshelfer = midwife  
Angezeigt durch = Announced by  
Getauft = baptized

### **Words Found On Miscellaneous Documents**

Das Rathaus = town hall  
Bescheinigung = certificate  
Stammhaus = habitual place, ancestral seat, the house a family comes from  
Gemeindeverwaltung = municipal administration  
dessen Gewerbe und Wohnort = his occupation & place of residence  
deren Gewerbe und Wohnort = her occupation & place of residence  
zum Wedel = place name  
Kirchspiel = parish

Einwohner = citizen, resident  
 Dom = cathedral  
 Bürgereid = citizen's oath  
 Viertel = town quarter  
 Bach = small river, brook, run  
 Mühle = mill  
 Muehlbach = brook used for driving a mill  
 Bruch = humid, moory region [can mean many other things as well]  
 Beruf = occupation  
 Kf. or Konfession religion

### German Family Relationships

Terms which are no longer in general use in present day German have been included where I felt they might be of importance to those genealogists reading older documents. These words have been marked with an asterisk and their modern day equivalent is referenced.

*Base	see Cousine
Bruder	brother
Cousin	male cousin
Cousine	female cousin
Ehefrau	wife
Ehemann	husband
Eltern	parents
Enkel	male grandchild, grandson
Enkelin	female grandchild,
granddaughter	
Gatte	formal term for husband
Gattin	formal term for wife
Geschwister	brother(s) and sister(s)
Großmutter	grandmother
Großonkel	great-uncle
Großtante	great-aunt
Großvater	grandfather
Kind	child
Kinder	# of children
Kusine	see Cousine
Mutter	mother
Neffe	nephew
Nichte	niece
*Oheim	see Onkel
Onkel	uncle
Schwägerin	sister-in-law; brother's wife
Schwager	brother-in-laws sister's
husband	
Schwester	sister
Schwiegereltern	parents-in-law
Schwiegermutter	mother-in-law

Schwiegersohn	son-in-law
Schwiegertochter	daughter-in-law
Schwiegervater	father-in-law
Sohn	son
Sohne	sons
Sohn von	son of
Stiefmutter	stepmother
Stiefsohn	stepson
Stieftochter	stepdaughter
Stiefvater	stepfather
Tante	aunt
Tochter	daughter
Urenkel	great-grandson
Urenkelin	great-granddaughter
Urgrossmutter	great-grandmother
Urgroßvater	great-grandfather
Vater	father
Vetter	male cousin

It is very interesting for the English language genealogist to note those distinct terms for relationships such as first cousin, second cousin etc. are virtually unknown in the German language. In specialist circles it may be perfectly acceptable to say ‘Cousin 2. Grades’ (literally: male cousin of the second degree), but ordinary German speakers would be at pains to define that relationship. Distinctions like ‘first cousin one removed’ are, therefore, even more esoteric.

### **German Occupations (Berufe)**

Occupations which no longer exist or words no longer in general use in present day German have been included where I felt they might be of importance to those genealogists reading older documents. These words have been marked with an asterisk and, where necessary, their modern day equivalent is referenced.

Most names of occupations in German are gender specific and have their own form. In most cases, this is simply a variant of the (grammatical) masculine form ending in “in”, e.g. Arbeiter Arbeiterin, Arzt Ärztin, Autor Autorin. The female forms have generally been included if there is also a gender specific form in English, but I doubt that I was totally consistent.

The English translations or explanations are hopefully transatlantic, i.e. I have generally taken both British and American English usage into consideration.

Ackermann = farmer  
Aderlasser barber surgeon  
Advokat = Lawyer  
Albinder = craftsman repairing old barrels  
Amman = bailiff, magistrate  
Amtsverwalter = administrator  
Anbauer = peasant  
Angestellter white—collar worker  
Angstmann = executioner; torturer

Anspanner = farmer  
Anstreicher painter  
Apotheker = chemist, pharmacist  
Arbeiter = blue—collar worker  
Ariwalt = lawyer  
Armer = poor man  
Arrendator = lease holder, tenant farmer  
Arzt = medical doctor  
Auer = clock, watchmaker  
Auermacher = clock, watchmaker  
Auflader = packer, loader  
Aufseher = supervisor  
Aufspieler = troubadour, minstrel  
Aulenbäcker = potter  
Auler = potter  
Automechaniker = car mechanic  
Autor = author  
Autorin = authoress  
Backer = baker  
Backmann = baker  
Bamutter = midwife  
Barbier = barber  
Barbierer = barber  
Bareler = cooper  
Bartscherer = barber  
Bartzwicker = barber  
Bauarbeiter = construction worker  
Bauer = farmer owning his own farm  
Baumeister = builder  
Baumgartner orchardist  
Beck = baker  
Becker = baker  
Bedder = barber, barber—surgeon  
Bekenmacher = cooper  
Bergmann = miner  
Besenbinder broom maker  
Beständer = leaseholder, tenant farmer  
Bestandmann = leaseholder, tenant farmer  
Bettler = beggar  
Bierbrauer = beer brewer  
Bildhauer = sculptor  
Bischof = bishop  
Bisser = (horse's) bridle or bridle—bit maker  
Bleicher = bleacher  
Bleistiftmacher = pencil maker  
Bleiweissholzleinmacher = pencil maker  
Bleiweisschneider = pencil maker  
Böck = baker  
Böker = cooper  
Böttcher\* = see Küfer\*  
Boddek(er) = cooper  
Bootsmann = boatman

Bortenmacher = lacemaker  
Bote = messenger  
Botenmeister = postmaster  
Bränelmacher = haberdasher  
Brauer = brewer  
Brettschneider = sawyer  
Briser = haberdasher  
Brückenzöllner = bridge toll collector  
Büchsenmacher = gunsmith  
Büdner = stallkeeper; cottager, crofter  
Bürgermeister = mayor  
Bürstenmacher = brushmaker  
Büttemacher = cooper  
Büttenbinder = cooper  
Büttner = cooper  
Bubenmeister = schoolmaster  
Buchdrucker = printer  
Buchfeller = parchment maker  
Buchhalter = book-keeper  
Buchstabensetzer = typesetter  
Bungenschlager = drummer  
Buntmacher = furrier  
Busschaffner = bus conductor  
Busschaffnerin = bus conductress  
Carpe = carpenter  
Chirurg = surgeon  
Corber = basketmaker  
Curtzenwerter = furrier  
Dachdecker = roofer, tiler, slater, thatcher  
Damenfriseur = ladies' hairdresser (male)  
Damenfriseuse = ladies' hairdresser (female)  
Damenschneider = dressmaker  
Decker = roofer, slater, thatcher, tiler  
Degener = swordsmith  
Degenschmied = swordsmith  
Diener = servant  
Dienstbote = servant  
Dienstmädchen = maid  
Drechsler = turner, thresher  
Dreher = turner  
Dreyer = turner  
Drucker = printer  
Durner = watchman, lookout  
Einleger = cooper  
Einlieger = farm laborer  
Eisengiesser = iron foundryman  
Eisenhändler = iron-monger  
Eisenschmied = blacksmith  
Eisenschneider = engraver  
Erbpächter = hereditary tenant  
Erdebäcker = potter  
Erzgräber = miner

Esser = coachbuilder, cartwright  
Euler = potter  
Eulner = potter  
Fährmann = ferryman  
Färber = dyer  
Fässler cooper  
Fabrikant = manufacturer  
Fabrikarbeiter = factory worker  
Fahrer = driver  
Faktotum = servant, helper  
Fassbinder = cooper  
Fassschlupfer = cooper  
Fasszieher packer, loader, helper in market  
Feger = road sweeper  
Feldhüter = field watchman  
Feldmeister = knacker, flayer  
Feldmesser = surveyor  
Feldreiter = gendarme, constable, rural policeman  
Fellhändler = furrier  
Fellwerkbearbeiter = furrier  
Ferber = dyer  
Ferche = ferryman  
Ferge = ferryman  
Fessler = cooper  
Feuermaler = enameler  
Fiedler = violin player, fiddler  
Figurist = sculptor  
Fingerhuter = thimble manufacturer  
Fischer = fisherman  
Fischhändler = fishmonger  
Fläminger = cloth dyer  
Flaschenmacher = bottle maker  
Fleischer = butcher  
Fleischhacker = butcher  
Fleischhauer = butcher  
Fleischmann = butcher  
Förster = forester  
Fragner = small shopkeeper, grocer  
Freiherr = baron  
Friseur = male hairdresser; also see Herren-, Damen-  
Friseuse = female hairdresser  
Fürst = prince  
Füsilier = light infantryman  
Fuhrmann\* = carter, driver, or carrier  
Fussknecht = foot soldier  
Gängler = peddler  
Gärtner = gardener  
Gadenmann = small shopkeeper  
Gantier = glove maker  
Gantner = cooper; auctioneer  
Gastgeber = innkeeper  
Gasthalter = innkeeper

Gastwirt = innkeeper  
Gaulichter = chandler  
Gebissmacher = bridle—bit maker  
Geburtshelfer = midwife  
Geigenspieler = violin player, fiddler  
Geistlicher = clergyman  
Gemeindemann = town official  
Gemüsehändler = greengrocer  
Gepäckträger = porter (carries luggage)  
Gerber = tanner  
Gerichtsschreiber = court clerk  
Gerillhändler = scrap iron merchant  
Geselle = “grade” of craftsman; journeyman  
Gewänder = cloth merchant  
Gewürzkramer = spice trader  
Giesser = foundryman  
Gigenbuckler = violin player, fiddler  
Girschner = furrier  
Glasballier = glass burnisher  
Glaser = glazier  
Glaserwerter = glazier  
Gleser = glazier  
Glöckner = bell ringer  
Glutzenmacher = wooden shoe maker  
Glufenmacher = pin manufacturer  
Goldschläger = producer of gold-leaf  
Goldschmied = goldsmith  
Graufärber = dyer of woolen cloth  
Graveur = engraver  
Gröper = potter  
Grobbinder = cooper  
Grobschmied = blacksmith  
Grossbauer = a farmer with large holdings  
Grütmüller = grain miller  
Grütznern = grain miller  
Gürtler = belt maker  
Gufener = needlemaker  
Häcker = small farmer  
Händler = trader, merchant  
Hafner = potter  
Hakenbüdner = hook seller  
Halbbauer = farmer on half—sized farm  
Halter = cowherd  
Hammacher = leatherworker, saddler  
Handelsreisender\* = see Reisender  
Handelsvertreter = sales representative  
Handschuhmacher = glove maker  
Handwerker = craftsman  
Haubenmacher = milliner  
Hausfrau = housewife  
Hausierer = peddler  
Hausmädchen = housemaid

Hebamme = midwife  
Heizer\* = stoker on a ship or train  
Hemdenmacher = shirtmaker  
Hepner = hops farmer  
Herrenfriseur = barber  
Herrenschneider = tailor  
Hersteller = producer, manufacturer  
Heuerling = day laborer, hireling  
Hippenmacher = scythe maker  
Hirt = herdsman  
Hölscher = wooden shoe maker  
Höpfner = hops grower  
Hofmann = day laborer  
Hofprediger chaplain  
Holzarbeiter = woodworker  
Holzdreher = turner  
Holzer = woodworker  
Holzhändler = lumber merchant  
Holzhauer = lumberjack  
Holzschuhmacher = wooden shoe maker  
Honighändler = honey merchant  
Hopfenbauer = hops grower  
Hüfner = farmer  
Hufschmied blacksmith, farrier, shoeing smith  
Hure = prostitute  
Hutmacher = hat maker  
Imker = bee keeper  
Ingenieur = engineer  
Instmann = tenant farm worker  
Jäger = hunter, forester  
Journalist = journalist  
Käsehändler = cheese merchant  
Kästner = joiner  
Käthner = shareholder, crofter  
Kaffl = trader, merchant  
Kammerdiener = valet, butler  
Kannengiesser = pewter worker  
Kantor = choirmaster, organist  
Kassierer = cashier  
Kaufhändler = buyer, merchant  
Kaufmann = buyer, merchant  
Keller = wine steward  
Kellner = waiter  
Kerkermeister =jailer  
Kerzengiesser = chandler  
Kerzenzieher =chandler  
Kesseler = coppersmith  
Kesselträger\* = boiler carrier  
Kessler = boilermaker, tinker  
Kiefer = cooper  
Kimmer = cooper  
Kirchenältester = church elder



Kirchenvorsteher = church warden  
Kirschner = furrier  
Kittner = glazier  
Kleibener = potter  
Klempner = plumber  
Knecht = servant, farm hand  
Knopfmacher = button maker  
Köchin = female cook  
Köhler = charcoal maker  
Körtzner = furrier  
Köthner\* = shareholder, crofter  
Kötter = small farmer  
Köthner or Käthner = poor farmer living on a small piece of land which is not his own  
Koch = male cook, chef  
Kolon = colonist, seller, farmer  
Korbflechter = basketmaker  
Kornmüller = grain miller  
Korsenmeister = furrier  
Krämer = small shopkeeper, grocer  
Krankenpfleger = male nurse  
Krankenschwester = nurse  
Kritiker = critic  
Kruger = innkeeper  
Kübler = cooper  
Küfer\* = cooper  
Kümmer = cooper  
Künstler = artist  
Kürschner = furrier  
Küster = sexton  
Kuchenbäcker = confectioner  
Kuhhirte = cow herder  
Kupferschmied = coppersmith  
Kutscher = coachman, driver  
Kutscher\* = see Fahrer  
Läuter = sexton, bell-ringer  
Lakenkrämer = cloth merchant  
Lakenscherer = cloth cutter  
Landarzt = country doctor  
Landmann\* = farmer  
Landmesser = surveyor  
Landwirt = farmer  
Lapicide = stonemason  
Lastträger = porter  
Lebensmittelhändler = grocer  
Lederhändler = leather merchant  
Lehmer = potter  
Lehrer = teacher  
Lehrling = apprentice  
Leichenbediener = undertaker  
Leimenmacher = potter  
Leinenreider = linen weaver

Leinenweber = linen weaver  
Linner = linen weaver  
Lodenmacher = weaver of woolen cloth  
Lohnarbeiter = day laborer  
Lokführer = train driver, engineer  
Lüstrierer = textile worker  
Mälzer = malt miller  
Maler = painter  
Maschinenschlosser = engine (or machine) fitter, mechanic  
Matrose = sailor  
Maurer mason  
Maurergeselle = mason  
Mechaniker = mechanic  
Mehlhändler = flour merchant  
Meister = master craftsman  
Messerer = cutler  
Messerschmied cutler  
Messingsschmied = brass worker  
Messner = sexton  
Metzger = butcher  
Mietling = day laborer  
Milchhändler = milkman  
Möbeltischler = furniture maker  
Müller\* miller  
Müllner = miller  
Musiker = musician  
Näherin = seamstress  
Nabenschmied = wheelwright  
Nadelmacher = needle maker  
Nagelschmied = nail smith  
Notar = notary  
Nuldener = needle maker  
Obstverkauf = fruit salesman  
Ochsenknecht = cowherd  
Ohlenmacher = potter  
Orleymacher = clock or watchmaker  
Pächter = leaseholder, tenant farmer  
Paradeiser = gardner  
Pedell = servant  
Pelzer = furrier  
Pergamentmacher = parchment maker  
Pfandnehmer = pawnbroker  
Pfannenschmied = pot or pan maker  
Pfarrer = pastor, minister  
Pfefferhändler = pepper merchant  
Pfeiffenmacher = pipe maker  
Pferdeknecht = stableman, groom  
Pflasterer = paver  
Pflugschmied = plowsmith  
Pfortner = porter (at a door)  
Pilsner = furrier  
Pirneider = parchment maker

Pölter = furrier  
Portenmacher = haberdasher  
Posamentierer = haberdasher  
Postillion = coachman  
Postmeister = postmaster  
Potter = potter  
Prediger = preacher  
Preister = priest  
Pütjer = potter  
Puchfeller = parchment maker  
Puchveler = parchment maker  
Putzfrau = cleaning woman, charlady  
Putzmacherin\* = milliner  
Rademacher = wheelwright  
Ratsherr = alderman  
Rechenmeister = accountant  
Rechtsanwalt = attorney  
Reepschläger = rope maker  
Reinemachefrau = see Putzfrau  
Reisender\* = travelling salesman, commercial traveller  
Reisser = designer, draftsman  
Reitschmied = farrier, shoeing smith  
Rentner = retired  
Reuter = rider; clearer of land  
Richter = judge  
Riemenschneider = harness maker  
Rindschuster = tanner  
Rindsuter = tanner  
Rotgerber = tanner  
Rudersmann = helmsman, coxswain  
Säger = sawyer  
Sattler = leather worker, saddler  
Sauter = shoemaker, cobbler  
Schäfer = shepherd  
Schäffler = cooper  
Schaffner = guard, conductor (train)  
Scharmacher = cartwright, wheelwright  
Schatilger = joiner, cabinetmaker  
Schauspieler = actor  
Schauspielerin = actress  
Scheffler = cooper  
Scheibenreisser = glazier  
Schiffer = sailor  
Schlosser = locksmith  
Schmied = smith (metal worker)  
Schneider = tailor, dressmaker; see Herren-, Damen-  
Schnorrer = begger  
Schnurmacher = lace maker  
Schöffe = juror, juryman  
Schöffler = bowl maker  
Schönbeck = pastry baker  
Schoffner = cooper

Schopper = ship's carpenter  
Schornsteinfeger = chimney-sweep  
Schotte = peddler  
Schrader = tailor  
Schreiber = clerk  
Schreiner = joiner, cabinet-maker  
Schriftsetzer = typesetter  
Schuhflicker = cobbler  
Schuhmacher = shoe maker  
Schullehrer = teacher, schoolmaster  
Schultheisserei = mayor  
Schuster = shoemaker, cobbler  
Seemann = sailor  
Seidenkrämer = silk merchant  
Seifenmacher = soap maker  
Seifensieder = soap maker  
Seigner = fisherman  
Seiler = rope maker  
Sekretär = male secretary  
Sekretarin = female secretary  
Sensenschmied = scythe maker  
Sigrist = sexton  
Soldat = soldier  
Sozialarbeiter = social worker  
Spangenmacher = brass worker  
Spezereihändler = druggist, chemist  
Spielmann = troubadour, minstrel  
Sporenschmied = spur maker  
Stäbler = peddler  
Stahlarbeiter = steelworker  
Steinbrecher = quarryman  
Steinhauer = stonemason  
Steinmetz = stonemason  
Steinachneider = gem cutter  
Stellmacher = wheelwright  
Stempelschneider = stamp cutter, die sinker  
Steuermann = helmsman, coxswain  
Strassenkehrer = road sweeper  
Strumpweber = stocking weaver  
Tagelöhner = day-laborer  
Techniker = technician, engineer  
Tierarzt = vet  
Tischler = see Schreiner  
Torwächter = gatekeeper  
Totengräber = grave digger  
Trippenmacher = wooden shoe maker  
Trommler = drummer  
Tüncher = white-washer  
Tuchfärber = cloth dyer  
Tuchmacher = cloth maker  
Turmwächter = watchman, lookout  
Ulenbecker = potter

Ulnar = potter  
Unterrichter = judge  
Verber = dyer  
Verkäufer = salesman  
Verkäuferin = saleswoman  
Vertreter = sales representative  
Vogt = provost, constable  
Wagenbauer = coach builder, cartwright  
Wagner = coach builder, cartwright  
Waidmann = hunter  
Weber = weaver  
Wehener = coach builder, cartwright  
Webmutter midwife  
Wehrmann = soldier  
Weingärtner = vine dresser  
Weissbinder = cooper; house painter  
Weissfrau = midwife  
Weissgerber = tanner  
Wetzer = grinder  
Weydman = hunter  
Weyner = coach builder, cartwright  
Wildschütz = hunter; poacher  
Wildwerker = furrier  
Winzer = vine dresser  
Wirt = landlord, pub owner  
Wirtin = landlady, pub owner or wife of same  
Wollenweber = wool weaver  
Wundarzt = surgeon  
Zahnarzt = dentist  
Zahnbrecher = dentist ("tooth breaker!")  
Zauer = cloth maker  
Zaumzeugmacher (horse's) bridle maker  
Zeichner = designer, draftsman  
Zeidler = beekeeper  
Zengener = tongsmith  
Zerrner = hammersmith  
Zeugkrämer = cloth merchant  
Zeugmacher = cloth maker  
Ziechener = weaver of bed sheets  
Ziegelbrenner = brickmaker  
Ziegler = brickmaker  
Zigarrenfabrikant = cigar maker, owner of a cigar factory  
Zimmerchrist = carpenter  
Zimmergeselle = carpenter  
Zimmerer = carpenter  
Zinsnehmer = moneylender, userer  
Zugbegleiter = see Schaffner  
Zwirnmacher = thread maker