

# Wedding traditions in Germany



# Junggesellenabschied

## *bachelor party*

- commemoration of the end of their time being single
- The groom and his male friends go drink together and the bride and her female friends
- The best man and the maid of honor each organize their separate event
- Several days before the marriage
- The groom and bride get surprised usually on the weekend



# Polterabend

- in the night before the wedding, guests break porcelain to bring luck to the couple's marriage
- Scares ghosts away
- The shards have to be cleaned out by the couple on the next day



# 2 Hochzeiten

## *2 weddings*

- First you have the civil wedding at the registry office (you can only officially be married in the registry office, church marriages are not official)
- After: church wedding



# Hochzeitsauto

## *bridal car*

- the married couple arrives to the wedding location in a car decorated with flowers
- Every guest follows the car of the couple and honks all the way to the destination
- Other cars also honk



# Reiswerfen

## *throwing rice*

- when leaving the town hall / church all the guests used to throw rice at the married couple.
- because of environmental issues, people nowadays use alternatives, such as: dried flower petals, confetti or soap bubbles



# Sägen

## *saw wood*

- both have to saw a tree log with a double-sided saw
- It has to be a rusted saw, so that it's more difficult for them to get through the log
- Successful sawing of the wood is only possible when both work together
- Symbolizes, that the relationship only works out when both work together



# Brautstrauß

## *bridal bouquet*

- groom has to go order the bridal bouquet at the florist
- Bride throws the bouquet and the one that catches it, will get married soon





# Brautentführung

- good friends of the bride kidnap her and goes to different pubs for drinks
- The groom has to find her and pay the bills at the pubs she went to
- In order to get his bride back, he has to do a punishment e.g. clean up for a week, do a table dance, etc.

