



Stream provided by GoodVue Network

LIFESTYLE

Texas German Spoken Here! For Now... Hear it Before it's Gone for Good

By Honky Tonk Foodie | April 23, 2020

Everyone knows of the German language, but did you know there are Texas-specific dialects of German, which are native to the Hill Country? Texas German, or *Texasdeutsch* in traditional German, was created by mid-19th century German immigrants. While still spoken today, its use is dwindling and will likely disappear soon. Homes of these dialects include Boerne, New Braunfels, Walburg, and Fredericksburg, as well as Muenster, Schulenburg, and Weimar. The dialect is often spoken as a mixture of both English and Texas German.

Photo: envato elements

As Texas has a rich history of immigrants from all over the world, it's not unusual to hear many languages. However, Texas German was adapted and continually spoken through fifth and sixth generations. This is quite uncommon, especially since the world wars led to a suppression of German language and culture. The Texas form of German does include English words, borrowed for the language as there were some things without German equivalents for early settlers, particularly in the agricultural, educational, and technological realms.

Here is an example below, for the word skunk:

Texas German: *Stinkkatze*

Literal translation: stink cat

Standard German: *Stinktier*

Literal translation: stink animal



Photo: envato elements

University of Texas Professor Hans Boas has worked to record speakers of this Texas form of German. He has 800 hours of interviews with over 400 German descendants in the Lone Star State, archiving them within the Texas German Dialect Project. His findings include the realization that every speaker has different variations of words and phrases. Read more about the ongoing work of Hans Boas and his team here. Texas German is expected to be lost by 2040. Do you speak this dialect or know someone who does? If so, consider contacting the Texas German Dialect Project to have your version of the language recorded for future generations to learn and study. This is yet another thing that makes Texas an incredible state!

We are your resource for Hill Country travel, things to do, places to eat, places to stay, tourism, events, lodging, and we feature Texas Hill Country info of all manners. Our Texas Hill Country Facebook page is growing by over 1,000 fans per day! We also run the premiere real-estate site in the hill country at HillCountryRealestate.com. We are born and bred in The Hill Country, and we welcome you to our family. Join the discussion on our new social platform Texjas.com!

LATEST NEWS

Delaware Springs Municipal Golf Course and Community, A Golfer's Dream in the Texas Hill Country

Fly Texas, Sharing the joy of non-motorized and open cockpit flying in the Highland Lakes

290 Wine Castle & Bentley Hotel, Voted the most unique wine tasting experience in Texas.

The Hill Country 100 Club is happy to announce our 18th Annual Hill Country 100 Club Golf Classic

Texas Flooding Disaster: Search and Rescue Efforts Continue Following July 4th Weekend Tragedy

Long Live Summer Nights!

TAGS

TEXAS TEXAS HILL COUNTRY AUSTIN TEXAS SAN ANTONIO TEXAS HOUSTON TEXAS DALLAS TEXAS FREDERICKSBURG TEXAS AUSTIN COUNTRY MUSIC VIDEO SAN ANTONIO CHRISTMAS NEW BRAUNFELS TEXAS WINE THINGS TO DO HISTORY MUSIC HOUSTON FOOD FORT WORTH TEXAS HILL COUNTRY HEART OF TEXAS BOERNE TEXAS HURRICANE HARVEY HIKING ART WEST TEXAS FISHING NATURE FREDERICKSBURG

Copyright © 2008 - 2026 Texas Hill Country.
I Terms of Service I Privacy Policy I Return Policy