

“Grüezi Morning” Welcome!

25th September 2014

These are some of the questions I would like to touch on:

- What does Grüezi really mean?
- How do families adjust?
- What is easy, what is difficult?
- What are the (new) challenges living in Switzerland?
- Are you connected with the Swiss community

Grüezi, What Does That Mean (Jen Schilling)

When I first got to Switzerland, I was always very confused on what people were saying. I had studied the language but things were just different. And things were definitely different when I travelled into the Swiss German speaking region. Boy were they different.

I'm sure some of you can even remember some of the first times you started hearing people say such weird words. What was harder for me was that I knew exactly no High German! In one of my first experiences in Swiss German speaking Switzerland, I was invited to dinner with my friends. They were speaking in Swiss German and I was listening to any word which was remotely linked to English, since I was told there were a lot of words like that. I tend to disagree a bit but here are just a few of those funny differences.

I've put them in order as follows:

ENGLISH - SWISS GERMAN - GERMAN

Hello - Grüezi - Guten Tag or Tag in Swiss German

Hello (to more than one person) - Grüezi mitenand - Guten Tag

Good evening - Gueten Abig - Guten Abend

Hi (more informal than "grüezi") - Hoi/Salü/Sali - Salut

Hi (to more than one person) - Hoi zäme - Salut

Good bye - (Uf) Widerluege/Ciao/Tschüss - Auf Wiedersehen/Tschüss

Thanks a lot - Merci vilmal - Vielen Dank

See you later - Bis spöter - Bis später

So I finally know what you guys in Germany are saying when you mention "Bis später". Since Swiss German isn't a known written language, a lot of these words you just have to pick up. Really I never knew what people were saying until I asked my friends multiple times and over and over again.