

German Housing Terms and Abbreviations

When first reading the ads in the newspapers or internet they might seem impossible to understand. But after some time, you will become a professional in deciphering all the different ads.

Here are some German housing terms and abbreviations normally used:

2 Zi.-Whg = two-room apartment

2 ZKBB = 2 rooms, kitchen, bathroom and balcony

3 ZKDB = three rooms plus kitchen, hallway, bath

Abstand = you have to buy some of the fixtures and furnishings

DG (Dachgeschoss) = loft apartment

EBK (Einbauküche) = built-in kitchen

EG (Erdgeschoss) = ground floor

HH (Hinterhaus) = back of the house (might have little light)

K (Kaution) = deposit

NR (Nichtraucher) = non-smokers

Kalt = heating costs are not included

KM (Kaltmiete) = (cold rent)

KN = kitchenette

Nachmieter = tenant who takes over an old lease

NMM (Nettomonatsmiete) = net monthly rent (plus costs for heating, electricity, gas, water, waste disposal)

MVZ (Monatliche Vorauszahlung) = rent in advance

Prov. (Provision) = commission

qm (Quadratmeter) = square metre (size of the apartment)

TG (Tiefgarage) = underground garage

VH (Vorderhaus) = front of the house

WG (Wohngemeinschaft) = shared flat

WBS erford. (Wohnberechtigungsschein) = subsidised housing only rented to holders of a special permit (WBS)

Wfl. (Wohnfläche) = living space

WM (Warmmiete) = warm rent (this is the cold rent plus additional cost)

Zi (Zimmer) = room(s)

ZH (Zentralheizung) = central heating

zzgl. NK = plus extra charges (heating, electricity, etc.)

further glossary can be found at (A-L) http://german.about.com/library/blvoc_wohn3.htm and (M-Z) http://german.about.com/library/blvoc_wohn3b.htm