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*Conni and
the Exchange Student*

Ins Englische übersetzt
von Helena Ragg-Kirkby

CARLSEN



A week later, a sky blue airmail letter is waiting in the hall when Conni comes home from school.

To Miss Conni Klawitter

it says. Her heart starts to beat a bit faster when she sees the foreign **post mark** and the stamp that clearly shows a picture of the English queen.

Mum comes out of the kitchen. »There's post for you,« she says, smiling. »From England.«

»Yes, cool! I've seen it!« Conni drops her rucksack and grabs the letter. Hmm, it isn't exactly fat.

»Can I have the stamp?« asks Jakob.

»Yeah, fine.« Conni nods **distractedly**. »But I want to read the letter in peace and quiet first, okay?«

Jakob sticks his tongue out at her, but Conni **pays him no attention**. She slowly takes the letter into the sitting room and sits herself in the big armchair by the window.

»What does she say?« Jakob is standing by her, **craning his neck**.

post mark – Poststempel

distractedly – abgelenkt

to pay someone no attention – jemanden nicht beachten

to crane one's neck – den Hals recken

»I've not even opened it yet!« hisses Conni. »And I won't open it so long as you're standing there with your eyes on stalks! Haven't you ever heard of private correspondence?«

Jakob grins and drops down onto the sofa.

Conni rolls her eyes, but then turns slightly sideways and opens the envelope. A photo falls out. It shows a red-haired girl laughing happily into the camera. Next to her is a big black dog with its tongue hanging out to one side.

Full of curiosity, Conni turns the photo over. On the back it says:

Me and my dog Harry. (He's the one **sticking his tongue out!**)

Conni giggles quietly. Mandy sounds pretty funny! She unfolds the letter and starts to read.

Lieber Conni!

Hang on a minute, thinks Conni. I hope Mandy doesn't think I'm a boy? Frowning, she carries on reading.

Ich will mich bedanken vor Deinen
Letter, über was ich mich sehr
gefremt hab!

Conni grins. So Mandy's German isn't perfect either. What a relief!

to stick one's tongue out – die Zunge herausstrecken

Ich freuen mich schon sehr Dich zu sehen und Deine Freunden und Family zu treffen. Mein Hobbies sind Musik, Skating und Spazierengehen mit mein Hund Harry. Essen mag ich am liebsten: fish and chips, pancakes and apple crumble. Sorry, dass mein Deutsch noch nicht so gut ist. Dein English in den Brief war sehr gut, ich muss sagen! Ich habe zwei Brüder, die sind älter als ich. Mein Mutter arbeitet im Rathaus, mein Vater hat ein Werkstatt für Autos. Unser Haus ist fast am Strand von Brighton. Brighton ist eine sehr hübsche Stadt am Meer. Ich muss schließen nun, aber wir sehen uns bald!
Bis denn,
Mandy

Ps: You can keep the photo! May I keep yours?

Conni looks at the photo more closely. Mandy seems really nice. She has an open smile, and her letter sounds funny and interesting.

»Can I have the stamp now?« Jakob has crept up unnoticed, and is looking at the photo that Conni is holding.

»She's got red hair!« he squawks. »She looks like a **fire extinguisher!**«

fire extinguisher – Feuerlöscher

»That's just not true!« snaps Conni. She **shoves** the photo back into the envelope. »And I'll have to think about whether or not to give you the stamp now!«

She goes to see Mum in the kitchen, leaving a **sulky** Jakob behind.

»So, what does your English friend have to say?« asks Mum.

Conni reads the letter out to her. Jakob is, of course, standing at the kitchen door, listening in.

»She sounds very nice,« says Mum, washing a bunch of fresh carrots.

Conni nods and grabs a little carrot.

»Mandy's favourite foods are fish and chips, pancakes and apple crumble,« she says, crunching the carrot. »What are they? Can we make them when she's here?«

»Of course we can!« Mum immediately agrees. »Fish and chips are an English speciality: it's baked fish with chips wrapped in paper and served with vinegar.« The corners of her mouth curl up. »But you can **give** the vinegar a **miss**, and have it with mayonnaise instead. Pancakes are ›Pfannkuchen‹. We like them too. And apple crumble is, so far as I know, a kind of ›Apfelstreuselkuchen‹. I'll have to get hold of a few English recipes before Mandy gets here.«

»Fish with vinegar?« Jakob shudders. »Yuck!« He **helps himself to** a carrot too. »Can't she write properly? Her letter sounds pretty funny!«

to shove – schieben

sulky – *hier*: schmollend

to give something a miss – etwas weglassen

to help oneself to something – sich etwas nehmen

»You try learning English,« **retorts** Conni. »Then you'll see how difficult it is to learn another language!« She takes another carrot which crunches as she bites into it. Mum's brow furrows with amusement. »If you'd rather eat things raw,« she says, »I could save myself the bother of cooking it.« She turns to Conni. »We should probably start making up the **spare bedroom** at the weekend. It's a bit of a tip at the moment. We need to clean and tidy in there. Have you got a couple of nice posters that we could hang up?«

»Why the spare room?« Conni asks, alarmed. Out of the question! she thinks. »Mandy's sleeping in my room, of course. She's supposed to be part of the family. And anyway, it's much more cosy!«

»In your little room?« Mum asks sceptically.

»Doesn't matter where she sleeps,« says Jakob. »The main thing is that she's not in my room.«

Conni gives him a look of irritation.

Mum **ponders**. »Well, if you can make some space in your room,« she says to Conni, »so that the spare bed will fit in, then it might be possible.«

»Brilliant!« Conni turns to go. »I'll go and measure up, and then I'll work out where to put Mandy's bed!«

»And don't forget to clear a bit of space in your wardrobe for Mandy's things,« says Mum.

»Yes, of course,« says Conni. »But there's no big hurry.«

to retort – erwidern, entgegnen

spare bedroom – Gästezimmer

to ponder – überlegen

She takes the **tape measure** from the kitchen drawer and taps Jakob on the chest with it. »If you promise not to make any jokes about Mandy's red hair, her favourite foods and her German, you can help me.«

»But only if you give me the English stamp **in return**,« he replies promptly.

»Okay, it's a deal,« laughs Conni. »If you like, I might even teach you a bit of English. It's tough on you if you're the only member of the family who can't talk to Mandy, isn't it?«

»Oh yeah, cool!« Jakob is highly excited.

»Well then,« says Conni. »Let's go!«

* * *

Over the next few days, practically all of Conni's classmates receive letters and photos from their exchange partners. Anna proudly shows off her photo of Alisha, a very pretty, exotic-looking girl with jet-black hair and **tanned** skin.

»Her mother's from India,« says Anna. »Isn't that fantastic?« Even Dina has a long letter from a girl called Sarah who has broken her **hip** in a riding accident so, unfortunately, can't come to Germany.

»Hey, that's brilliant!« Conni says, pleased. »Then you have at least got a **pen-pal**!«

Anna nods. »And when we go to visit them in Brighton, you can get to know Sarah in person!«

tape measure – Maßband

in return – im Gegenzug

tanned – gebräunt

hip – Hüfte

pen-pal – Brieffreund/in

»What makes you think we're going to Brighton?« Billi frowns. »Nobody's said anything about that!«

»Why not?« asks Anna. »Don't school exchanges work both ways?«

»Yes, of course they do,« replies Billi. »But not normally until Year Nine or Year Ten.«

As Paul and Phillip come into the classroom, the girls exchange amused looks. For the last couple of days, the two boys have been speaking nothing but English. To get in some practice, they claim.

»Hello, ladies,« Paul greets them **airily**.

»What a beautiful morning!« Phillip bows to the girls. When he stands up again, a lock of hair is falling across his forehead. He brushes it aside **nonchalantly**. »Just as beautiful as you are!«

Billi taps her forehead significantly, Anna giggles, and Dina's face takes on a pinkish **hue**.

The morning is almost as beautiful as we are? Conni can't help grinning.

»What's up, boys?« she asks.

Phillip pulls a photo out of his denim jacket. »May I introduce my friend Toby from Brighton?« he says. »He loves cricket and French fries.«

Conni looks at the photo. It is of a sporty-looking boy with dark hair.

airily – leichthin, unbekümmert

nonchalantly – lässig

hue – Schimmer, Hauch

»What is the meaning of ›French fries‹, please?« Paul looks baffled. »Fried Frenchmen?«

»It means ›Pommes‹,« laughs Conni. »We learnt that in Year Five! *By the way*: have you got a photo of Louis?«

»Doch, klar!« Erm ... *I mean*: Yes, of course!« Paul rummages laboriously in his rucksack and pulls out a photo. It is already a bit tatty and, moreover, rather **out of focus**.

»So which one is he?« asks Conni. The photograph shows an entire football team.

»Third one on the back row.« Paul stabs the fuzzy photo with his finger. »Cool, eh? He plays football too!«

»Yeah, great.« Conni hands the photo back. »Then you've at least got a shared hobby.«

When Frau Lindmann comes into the classroom, they all leap back to their seats. »Good morning, boys and girls,« says the Dragon, evidently in a good mood. »Only a few days until our British guests arrive. We need to talk about the excursion programme today and gather together some suggestions.«

Conni takes her notepad out of her rucksack and opens it. When Anna winks at her, she winks back. Excursion programme? That sounds exciting!

Soon the blackboard is filled with a long list of **worthwhile destinations**. The suggestions range from the swimming pool to mini golf in the park and Angelo's little ice cream shop, to the cinema, a **petting farm**, the museum in the next town, and the nature trail behind their school.

out of focus – unscharf

worthwhile destinations – lohnende Ziele

petting farm – Streichelzoo

»We'll never manage all that in ten days,« groans Phillip.

»It could be a bit expensive too,« Anna says.

Frau Lindmann nods. »They're just suggestions. We'll pick out two or three that are **affordable** and that don't involve travelling too far. In any case, we'll only have two mornings available as lessons have to carry on as normal and the visiting children are doing a language course in the afternoons.«

»Can't everyone just do what they like?« Janette pipes up.

Conni frowns. Typical Janette, she thinks. Always thinking only of herself. She feels sorry for her exchange student!

»No,« says Frau Lindmann. »We want to spend as much time together as possible.«

Janette **pouts**. Saskia and Ariane whisper something to her and giggle quietly.

Stupid creatures, thinks Conni to herself as she turns away. The excursions will undoubtedly be much nicer if those silly cows stay at home!

That evening, Conni sticks Mandy's letter and photo into her diary. She has given the envelope with the Queen stamp to Jakob. After all, he's helped her to measure her room and **shift the furniture** around without grumbling. Now there is enough space by the window for Mandy's guest bed. The little bedside table from the spare room will even just about fit next to it too.

affordable – bezahlbar

to pout – einen Schmolle Mund ziehen

to shift furniture – Möbel verrücken

Conni looks around, satisfied. She **hardly recognises** her little room: she has tidied the desk, emptied the top drawers, and added a second chair. After all, she and Mandy will have to do their homework together.

There is a **gaping hole** in the wardrobe, too.

»Perfect!« Conni says to Mau. She strokes his fur, lies down on the bed, and reaches for her diary and shell pen.

She reads Mandy's letter for at least the thousandth time before leafing through a couple more pages of her diary.

On the internet, she's managed to find some original British cooking and baking recipes and has decided to make a couple of Mandy's favourite meals with her – so long as it doesn't involve fish in paper.

Our exchange students are coming
in three days' time.

WELCOME TO GERMANY!

As Conni decorates the individual letters with a few curls and **flourishes**, she can feel the butterflies in her stomach.

Not long now, she thinks. Only a few days ... She dashes downstairs and stops in front of the tall bookcase in the living room.

»Are you looking for something in particular?« Dad asks, amused.

to hardly recognise – kaum wiedererkennen

gaping hole – gähnendes Loch

flourishes – Schnörkel

Conni nods. »We've got that big travel guide to Europe. I was wondering if there's anything about England in it?«

Dad stands up. His **index finger** wanders along the brightly coloured **spines**. »There's sure to be,« he says, pulling out a fat book. »Here you go. Have a good **browse**.«

»Thanks!« Conni grabs the book and runs back to her room. She throws herself down on her stomach on the bed, and is soon lost in the photos and descriptions of the south of England.

She needs to know what Mandy's homeland looks like, doesn't she? If everything goes well and they get on, she might even be able to go and stay with Mandy there.

»Brighton,« Conni says to Mau. »Sounds good, doesn't it?«
Mau purrs his agreement, and shuts one eye.

index finger – Zeigefinger
spine – *hier*: Buchrücken
browse – Stöbern



»Can you see anything yet?« asks Anna.

»No,« Conni sighs. She turns to Billi, who is standing on a low wall, shading her eyes with her hand. She looks like a pirate on the look-out. »Can you see anything from up there?«

Billi shakes her head. »No sign of the **coach**!«

»**Rats!**« Conni looks at her watch. Half past seven already! The coach was supposed to be there at seven! »Where on earth are they?«

Dina shrugs. »They're probably stuck in traffic,« she suggests.

»I hope not,« Conni says impatiently.

The boys don't seem bothered by the waiting around. They've fished a **paper cup** out of the bin and are playing football with it in the field by the sports hall.

Red-cheeked, Jakob races around alongside them, trying to sneak the cup away from them with a couple of deft twists and turns. Typical, thinks Conni. So long as boys have something to play with, they're happy.

Mum and Dad are standing a little way off, talking to Paul's parents. Marie is hopping around them on one leg.

coach – Reisebus

Rats! – Mist! (*umgangssprachlich*)

paper cup – Pappbecher

She suddenly stops. »A coach is coming!« she cries.

The waiting parents all turn their heads.

Billi cranes her neck. »They're coming!« she shouts loudly, waving her arms like mad.

The boys stop their game and come trotting over. Phillip kicks the **battered** cup back into the bin.

Dina comes to stand with Anna and Conni.

And yes, it is true: a big red coach is slowly turning into the school playground, where it comes to a halt. There is a loud hissing sound as the driver switches off the engine and opens the doors.

Conni holds her breath. She looks at Anna, but Anna is looking straight ahead of her **in anticipation**.

Gradually, there is activity on the coach. Curious faces appear at the windows. A couple of girls and boys wave.

Frau Lindmann steps forward and greets a tall, grey-haired man who is first off the coach.

»On behalf of all my colleagues at the Lessing Gymnasium, I'd like to welcome you and your class, Mr Brownstone,« she says. »I trust you had a pleasant journey?«

Mr Brownstone nods and **apologises** for their lateness.

»There was a **traffic jam** on the motorway,« he says with a distinct English accent.

»That must be their teacher,« Billi whispers to the others. She has left her look-out post and is balancing on the tips of her toes in order to get a better view.

battered – ramponiert

in anticipation – angespannt

to apologise – sich entschuldigen

traffic jam – Stau

Conni just nods.

Mr Brownstone thanks Frau Lindmann for her kind welcome and steps aside. Calls and laughter come from the coach as the first boys and girls climb out and look around curiously. A thin, very tall girl with strikingly long blonde hair stands out from all the others. Wearing big sunglasses, and carrying a tiny pink satin rucksack on her back, she looks around with an air of boredom.

Anna points to her high-heeled shoes. »How can she walk in those things without falling over?«

»No idea,« giggles Conni.

»Hello, Vicky!« screeches Janette. She throws herself at the girl and hugs her **ostentatiously**.

»Welcome to the Barbie Club!« grins Billi.

»Hey, there's Toby!« Phillip cries, pushing forward. »He looks just like in the photo!«

Conni tries to spot Mandy in the chaotic scrum. She catches a brief glimpse of a shock of red hair in the coach doorway. Is that her?

»Look! That must be Alisha!« Anna digs her elbow into Conni's side and points to a petite dark-haired girl who is looking around shyly. »I'll just go and say hello.«

Billi has also found her exchange partner, Kate, and she and her parents are saying hello.

Conni is feeling increasingly nervous. What if Mandy hasn't come? Maybe she's been taken ill just before they left? Oh no! She casts a glance to one side. A sturdy girl in a football shirt is heading for Paul and shaking his hand.

ostentatiously – pompös, zur Schau gestellt

»Hey, you must be Paulie, right?« she says. »Nice to meet you!« Paul's mouth hangs open. He stares at the girl and stammers: »Äh ... what?«

The girl grins broadly. »I'm Louise,« she says, clapping him on the shoulder. »Hast du meinen Foto nicht bekommen?«

Paul looks around helplessly. »Th-, there must be some mistake,« he stammers. »I don't have an Austauschschülerin, I have an Austauschschüler! A boy, you understand? His name is Louis!«

The girl starts to laugh loudly.

»Hey, du bist really funny, Paulie!« she cries. »Louis ist mein **nickname**! But mein richtiger Name ist Louise!«

»A girl?!« Paul's voice cracks. He **pulls a face** as if he had a five-headed monster in front of him. »Frau Lindmann, come over here please, quickly!«

»Hi, I'm Mandy,« a voice suddenly says next to Conni. »You must be Conni. Ich haben dich gleich erkennt.«

Conni whirls round. A girl is standing next to her, smiling. She has flame-coloured hair, Conni sees, and **bears a** certain **similarity** to the girl in the photo – if only it weren't for her weird hair. This mop of hair looks like a terrified hedgehog, with countless **spikes** sticking upwards.

In the girl's left ear are three silver earrings. She is wearing ripped leggings, a short skirt, and a **frayed** t-shirt that stops

nickname – Spitzname

to pull a face – das Gesicht verziehen

to bear similarity – Ähnlichkeit zeigen, ähnlich sein

spikes – Stacheln

frayed – ausgefranzt

above her **belly button**. On her feet are massive hiking boots.

Conni swallows. That is Mandy? A **hedgehog** with earrings and a bare **midriff**? Oh help!

»Yes, I'm Mandy Livingston,« the girl repeats, laughing.

»Sorry, ich sehen ein bisschen anders aus als auf dem Foto, was?« Well, she can say that again! Conni swallows. »I'm sorry,« she says quickly. »Excuse me – I almost didn't recognise you!«

»No problem,« says Mandy, unfazed. »Ich hab dich gleich erkennt. Du siehst exactly aus wie in das Foto, das du mich geschickt hast. Ich bin sehr glücklich, dich endlich zu treffen!«

Conni returns Mandy's open smile. »Me too,« she says. »Hugely!«

»Wo ist dein family?« Mandy looks around curiously. »Und dein little brother?«

Conni gestures vaguely. »I last saw them somewhere over there.« She takes Mandy's hand and pulls her along. »Come on, we'll go and find them!« They won't believe their eyes! she adds silently.

Dina has been standing there silently listening the whole time, her eyes wide.

»That's Dina,« Conni introduces her. »One of my best friends.«

»Hi Dina,« Mandy waves to her. »Nice to meet you!«

belly button – Bauchnabel

hedgehog – Igel

midriff – Taille

»Nice to meet you too,« murmurs Dina, struggling **to keep up** with them without taking her eyes off Mandy. Conni's exchange partner is a punk, she thinks, bemused. Unbelievable!

In the meantime, a little cluster of people has gathered in front of the coach. In the middle is Paul, his face bright red. His parents are standing to his left and right, looking **baffled**.

»But it clearly said Louis in the letter,« Paul is insisting. »Not Louise! There was never any mention of a girl!«

Frau Lindmann is standing with him, trying to calm him down. »There's obviously been a misunderstanding, Paul,« she says. »Louise is your exchange partner – and she's a girl.« She holds a list out under Paul's nose and points to a name. »It says so here: Louise Wilmington, staying with the Hauser family.«

»Don't *make such a fuss*, Paulie,« Louise grumbles in Paul's direction. »I thought wir wollten football together spielen und fun haben.«

»It's brilliant!« **rejoices** Paul's little sister. »A girl is much cooler! You can sleep in my room, Louise!«

Conni grins as she pushes past the little group with Mandy and Dina in tow. Poor Paul! What other surprises might the English students have brought with them? She has spotted

to keep up – Schritt halten

baffled – verwirrt, ratlos

to make a fuss – Aufhebens machen

to rejoice – jubeln

Mum, Dad and Jakob standing slightly away from all the hurly-burly.

»Hello! We're here!« she cries from a distance. She notices the **astonished** look in her parents' eyes as they catch their first glimpse of the girl who is to be their guest. »This is Mandy!« Conni announces, unable to suppress a little giggle.

»Hi, nice to meet you, Mr and Mrs Klawitter,« Mandy says politely. She holds out her hand to Mum and then Dad. Conni's parents look at one another.

»And you must be Jakob,« Mandy says to him. »Am I right?«

»Yes, my name is Jakob,« Jakob replies **solemnly**, without taking his eyes off Mandy's hedgehog hair. His eyes are as big as dinner plates. »You look so cool!«

Everyone laughs. Mandy ruffles Jakob's hair.

»Thanks,« she says. »Du auch!«

»Did you have a good journey?« asks Mum.

Mandy nods. »It was all right,« she says, yawning. »Ganz gut, only a bisschen too long.«

Dad grins. »I'll just go and fetch your luggage.« He is about to turn away, but Mandy stops him.

»Oh, I can hold es by myself,« she says. »Ich only habe einen, wie sagt man in German? Taschenriese?«

»Taschenriese?« Dad stops.

»I think she meant »Riesentasche«,« Conni grins.

Mandy nods. »Yes, that's exactly was ich meine: Riesentasche! Giant's bag. What a funny word!« She laughs **merrily**

astonished – erstaunt

solemnly – ernst

merrily – fröhlich

and pushes her way through the crowd to the coach's **luggage compartment**. »I'll go and get it!« she calls back over her shoulder. »Just a second!«

Conni looks first at Mum, then at Dad. »So? What do you reckon?«

»She seems very nice,« Mum says **cautiously**.

»Hmm,« says Dad. »Yes, nice.«

Conni laughs and links arms with them. »You think she's a bit odd, don't you?«

»Not exactly odd.« Dad scratches his head. »It's more that I need to get used to her.«

Conni gives him a kiss. »You'll soon get used to her!«

Dad nods. »At least she'll bring a bit of colour into the house!«

Mandy has a giant, shapeless monstrosity on her back when she returns. The weight of the bag seems almost to squash her. **Groaning**, she drops it on the ground and rubs her shoulders.

»Das gehört mein großen brother,« she explains. »Daher es ist so much bigger than normal. Oops,« she gestured over Jakob's head. »Da kommt mein teacher. Hello, Mr Brownstone!«

Mr Brownstone says hello to the family and introduces himself.

»Is everything all right, Amanda?« he asks Mandy.

She grins broadly. »Fine, thanks, Mr Brownstone.«

luggage compartment – Gepäckfach

cautiously – vorsichtig

to groan – stöhnen

Frau Lindmann appears at Mr Brownstone's side. With raised eyebrows, she **scrutinises** Mandy from top to toe, and gives Conni's parents a couple of pieces of paper.

»Here are Mandy's **insurance documents**,« she says.

»Medical insurance, accident insurance and so on.« She nods to Conni and Mandy. »See you tomorrow morning.«

Mandy glances at Conni. »*She's got eyes like a reptile*,« she whispers.

Conni nods. »*That's why we call her the Dragon*,« she whispers back. »»*Lindmann*« is like »*Lindwurm*«.« She thinks briefly, then translates: »*That's an old word for dragon*.«

Mandy laughs. »*That's cool!*«

On the way to the car, they **bump into** Billi and Anna with their exchange students. Kate and Alisha wave cheerfully to Mandy and say hello to Conni and Dina. Anna's eyes open wide.

»That's Mandy?« she whispers to Conni.

Conni nods, grinning.

Billi is really excited. »Hey, great haircut,« she says to Mandy.

»Do you think spikes like that would **suit** me?«

Anna gives her an anxious sideways look. »You're not serious, are you?« she asks.

Billi shrugs. »Why not?«

to scrutinise – eingehend prüfen, mustern
insurance documents – Versicherungsunterlagen
to bump into someone – auf jemanden treffen
to suit someone – zu jemandem passen

»See you tomorrow morning,« Mandy says to Kate and Alisha. She adds with a wink: »Did you know they have a dragon for a teacher?« She giggles at her classmates' horrified expressions and carries on walking, dragging the big bag behind her. She has turned down Dad's offer to carry it to the car.

»No, danke schön, Mr Klawitter. Ich bin ein strong Mädchen!« she'd said.

When they reach the car, Dina says goodbye to them. »I'm on my bike,« she says. »It's back there. See you tomorrow!« Conni and Mandy wave to her as Dad heaves the heavy bag into the **boot**.

On the other side of the car park is Herr Hauser's **estate car**. Conni can see Paul getting in, his face as long as a wet weekend.

Louise is sitting in the passenger seat looking extremely cheerful. When she sees Mandy, she winds the window down and calls »Good Night, Mandy!« right across the car park.

Mandy **bellows** a deafening »Sleep well, Louis!« back. She emphasises her words with a shrill whistle and a loud laugh.

Dad pulls his head in. »I need to get used to the noise level,« he murmurs.

»You'll manage it,« Mum says encouragingly. »You've got ten days.«

boot – *hier*: Kofferraum

estate car – Kombi

to bellow – brüllen

»Are we going home yet?« Jakob nags from the back seat. »It's already late, and I've not had my supper!«

»You're not the only one,« grumbles Dad from the passenger seat.

»*Me too,*« says Mandy.

Mum **engages** first **gear** and the car moves slowly away from the car park.

»*No problem,*« she says. »Supper's waiting for us in the oven at home!«

to engage a gear – einen Gang einlegen