Deutsch 231 Wörterbuchübung [mit Laptop oder Wörterbuch]

The following are some hilarious bloopers from past essays that we can learn from:

Ex. 1: "Rammstein ist eine **Fels**band. **"**

*Fels* means big rock or cliff. If I look up “rock”, there are a number of geological *(Geol)* entries, including this one: **Fels** *m* (= ~face)

If I look more closely, there is another entry that makes sense for this context: **Roc**k *m (=pop music)*

Correct use: "Rammstein ist eine **Rock**band."

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Ex. 2: "**Schutzanzug** war der Film sehr gut.“

It helps to know what part of speech you are looking for. If I know that I need an adverb for “overall”, then I will seek appropriate words that are NOT capitalized. If I type in “overall” in Beolingus, the online dictionary, I get a long list of (capitalized) nouns, the first entry being *Schutzanzug*, which is an item of clothing. If I look carefully, I see that I can recognize the word *Anzug* in this compound word, and that it means “suit”. Online translators will often provide false combinations of words, and we don’t recommend them.

Correct use: "**Insgesamt** (ODER **Im Allgemeinen)** war der Film sehr gut."

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Ex. 3: "Gestern Abend haben wir **Feuerhaken** gespielt."

A *Feuerhaken* is a poker for a *Feuer* (=fire)!

Correct use: "Gestern Abend haben wir **Poker** gespielt."

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Ex. 4: "Er hat von der Schule **ausgetropft.**"

*Tropfen* means to drop, in the sense of dripping, like rain! This student was trying to translate "drop out" too literally. In German, one would say "He *left* (the) school." If you're leaving something or someone (i.e. if you have a direct object), use "*verlassen*." Tip: Think of another way to phrase something in English!

Correct use: "Er hat die Schule **verlassen**."

-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Können Sie feststellen, was mit den Sätzen unten wohl gemeint war? Was ist richtig?**

1. Ich bin Pizza Befreier.

2. Meine Familie und ich sind große Seattle Seahawks Ventilatoren.

3. Er links.

4. A: Wie geht’s?

B: Ich bin Geldstrafe!

5. Mein Treppenvater und ich haben mit meiner Fuβballkutsche gesprochen.

**Bonus! Umgekehrt…ein(e) Deutsche(r) sagt...:**

It pulls [Es zieht] in my room and if you don’t give me a new ceiling, I’ll undress!

**Was meint er/sie?**  
There's a draft [Es zieht] in my room and if you don't give me a new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I'll \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!