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## **Merkel - Multiculturalism "failed" in Germany**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1010/101017-multiculturalism.html>

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17th October, 2010

# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101017-multiculturalism.html>

The German chancellor Angela Merkel has told politicians that attempts to build a multicultural society in Germany have "utterly failed". She was speaking at a conference attended by her party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), on Saturday. Her speech was a shocking assessment of multiculturalism in Germany. She said: "At the beginning of the 60s, our country asked foreign workers to come to Germany and now they live in our country... We fooled ourselves a while and said: 'They won't stay... at some time they will go'" She went on: "But this isn't reality... And of course, the approach to build a multicultural society and to live side-by-side [happily]... has failed, utterly failed." Ms Merkel also said that immigrants to Germany had to learn German.

The chancellor's comments come after a series of anti-immigrant feeling from other German politicians. Perhaps the strongest comment came from Horst Seehofer, the leader of the CDU's Bavarian sister party, the CSU. He said the concept of multiculturalism was "dead". Another politician, Stephan Kramer criticized the CSU leader, saying his ideas were "not only petty but outright irresponsible". He attacked the current debates on immigration for being "hysterical". A recent study into immigration showed that over 30 per cent of Germans had negative feelings towards immigrants. The report, from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, revealed that 34.3 per cent of those surveyed believed Germany's 16 million immigrants migrated to the country just for the social benefits.

# WARM-UPS

**1. MULTICULTURALISM:** Walk around the class and talk to other students about multiculturalism. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*politicians / attempts / multicultural / failed / fooled / approach / live side-by-side / comments / anti-immigrant feeling / concept / petty / negative feeling / social benefits*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. MULTICULTURAL:** What are the pros and cons? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

	Pros	Cons
Jobs		
Religious tolerance		
Global culture		
Food		
Language		
Peace		

**4. SIDE-BY-SIDE:** Students A **strongly** believe all people can live side-by-side happily; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. IMMIGRANT:** What would you worry about if you emigrated? Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the biggest worry at the top.

- job
- money
- housing
- new food culture
- the local population
- religious freedom
- language
- safety

**6. SOCIETY:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'society'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101017-multiculturalism.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. The German leader has said multiculturalism isn't working in Germany. T / F
- b. She was speaking to a gathering of several thousand immigrants. T / F
- c. Ms Merkel said people in the 60's thought immigrants wouldn't stay. T / F
- d. Ms Merkel said it wasn't necessary for immigrants to learn German. T / F
- e. Other German politicians have aired anti-immigration feelings. T / F
- f. Ms Merkel is the sister of the leader of the CSU Party. T / F
- g. A man called Stephan Kramer suggested people were over-reacting. T / F
- h. All of Germany's immigrants migrated there for the social benefits. T / F

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. attempts   | a. showed    |
| 2. utterly    | b. kidded    |
| 3. assessment | c. sequence  |
| 4. fooled     | d. judgment  |
| 5. reality    | e. trivial   |
| 6. series     | f. tries     |
| 7. concept    | g. arguments |
| 8. petty      | h. totally   |
| 9. debates    | i. truth     |
| 10. revealed  | j. idea      |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. She was speaking at a conference | a. irresponsible         |
| 2. a shocking assessment of         | b. of the 60s            |
| 3. At the beginning                 | c. social benefits       |
| 4. We fooled ourselves              | d. side-by-side          |
| 5. to live                          | e. immigrant feeling     |
| 6. a series of anti-                | f. attended by her party |
| 7. the concept of multiculturalism  | g. a while               |
| 8. not only petty but outright      | h. towards immigrants    |
| 9. negative feelings                | i. multiculturalism      |
| 10. just for the                    | j. was "dead"            |

# WHILE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101017-multiculturalism.html>

**GAP FILL:** Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The German chancellor Angela Merkel has told politicians that \_\_\_\_\_ to build a multicultural society in Germany have "\_\_\_\_\_ failed". She was speaking at a conference attended by her party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), on Saturday. Her \_\_\_\_\_ was a shocking assessment of multiculturalism in Germany. She said: "At the beginning of the 60s, our country asked \_\_\_\_\_ workers to come to Germany and now they live in our country... We \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves a while and said: 'They won't stay... at some time they will go'" She went on: "But this isn't \_\_\_\_\_ ... And of course, the approach to \_\_\_\_\_ a multicultural society and to live \_\_\_\_\_ -by-side [happily]... has failed, utterly failed." Ms Merkel also said that immigrants to Germany had to learn German.

*reality*  
*foreign*  
*utterly*  
*side*  
*attempts*  
*build*  
*speech*  
*fooled*

The chancellor's comments come after a \_\_\_\_\_ of anti-immigrant feeling from other German politicians. Perhaps the strongest comment came from Horst Seehofer, the leader of the CDU's Bavarian \_\_\_\_\_ party, the CSU. He said the \_\_\_\_\_ of multiculturalism was "dead". Another politician, Stephan Kramer criticized the CSU leader, saying his ideas were "not only \_\_\_\_\_ but outright irresponsible". He attacked the \_\_\_\_\_ debates on immigration for being "hysterical". A recent study into immigration \_\_\_\_\_ that over 30 per cent of Germans had negative feelings towards immigrants. The report, from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, \_\_\_\_\_ that 34.3 per cent of those surveyed believed Germany's 16 million immigrants \_\_\_\_\_ to the country just for the social benefits.

*revealed*  
*petty*  
*sister*  
*showed*  
*series*  
*migrated*  
*concept*  
*current*

## LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101017-multiculturalism.html>

The German chancellor Angela Merkel has told \_\_\_\_\_ build a multicultural society in Germany have "utterly failed". She was speaking at a conference \_\_\_\_\_, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), on Saturday. Her speech was \_\_\_\_\_ of multiculturalism in Germany. She said: "At the beginning of the 60s, our country asked foreign workers to come to Germany and now they live in our country... \_\_\_\_\_ a while and said: 'They won't stay... at some time they will go'" She went on: "But this isn't reality... And of course, the \_\_\_\_\_ a multicultural society and to live side-by-side [happily]... has failed, utterly failed." Ms Merkel \_\_\_\_\_ to Germany had to learn German.

The chancellor's comments \_\_\_\_\_ of anti-immigrant feeling from other German politicians. Perhaps the strongest comment came from Horst Seehofer, the leader of the CDU's Bavarian sister party, the CSU. He \_\_\_\_\_ multiculturalism was "dead". Another politician, Stephan Kramer criticized the CSU leader, saying his ideas were "not only petty \_\_\_\_\_". He attacked the current \_\_\_\_\_ for being "hysterical". A recent study into immigration showed that over 30 per cent of Germans \_\_\_\_\_ towards immigrants. The report, from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, revealed that 34.3 per cent \_\_\_\_\_ believed Germany's 16 million immigrants migrated to the country just for the social benefits.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101017-multiculturalism.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'multi' and 'cultural'.

multi	cultural

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• attempts</li><li>• attended</li><li>• shocking</li><li>• fooled</li><li>• reality</li><li>• learn</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• series</li><li>• strongest</li><li>• concept</li><li>• recent</li><li>• negative</li><li>• social</li></ul>
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# STUDENT MULTICULTURALISM SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101017-multiculturalism.html>

Write five GOOD questions about multiculturalism in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.



# MULTICULTURALISM DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'multiculturalism'?
- c) How multicultural is your country?
- d) Would you like your country to be more or less multicultural?
- e) What do you think of Angela Merkel's comments?
- f) What now for multiculturalism in Germany?
- g) Why did people in the 60s believe immigrants wouldn't stay?
- h) Why can't people live side-by-side?
- i) What are the advantages of multiculturalism?
- j) Should migrants have to pass a language test in the country in which they want to live?

*Merkel - Multiculturalism "failed" in Germany - 17th October, 2010*  
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# MULTICULTURALISM DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Is there anti-immigrant feeling in your country?
- c) In Dubai, 80% of the population are migrants. Should this be a role model?
- d) How can the concept of multiculturalism be "dead"?
- e) Do you think Stephan Kramer is right when he said Horst Seehofer's comments were petty?
- f) Germany needs immigrants for its economic success. Why are people complaining?
- g) Are people being hysterical when it comes to immigration?
- h) Can immigration be reversed?
- i) To which country would you like to migrate?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Angela Merkel?

# LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101017-multiculturalism.html>

The German chancellor Angela Merkel has told politicians that (1) \_\_\_\_\_ to build a multicultural society in Germany have "(2) \_\_\_\_\_ failed". She was speaking at a conference attended by her party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), on Saturday. Her speech was a (3) \_\_\_\_\_ assessment of multiculturalism in Germany. She said: "At the beginning of the 60s, our country asked foreign workers to come to Germany and now they live in our country... We (4) \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves a while and said: 'They won't stay... at some time they will go'" She went on: "But this isn't reality... And of course, the approach to build a multicultural society and to live side-(5) \_\_\_\_\_-side [happily]... has failed, utterly failed." Ms Merkel also said that immigrants (6) \_\_\_\_\_ Germany had to learn German.

The chancellor's comments come after a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of anti-immigrant feeling from other German politicians. Perhaps the strongest comment came from Horst Seehofer, the leader of the CDU's Bavarian (8) \_\_\_\_\_ party, the CSU. He said the concept of multiculturalism was "dead". Another politician, Stephan Kramer criticized the CSU leader, (9) \_\_\_\_\_ his ideas were "not only petty but outright irresponsible". He attacked the current debates (10) \_\_\_\_\_ immigration for being "hysterical". A recent study into immigration showed that over 30 per cent of Germans had negative feelings towards immigrants. The report, from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, revealed that 34.3 per cent of (11) \_\_\_\_\_ surveyed believed Germany's 16 million immigrants (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to the country just for the social benefits.

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |                |               |             |                   |
|-----|----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1.  | (a) attempting | (b) attempted | (c) attempt | (d) attempts      |
| 2.  | (a) utterly    | (b) utter     | (c) uttered | (d) utters        |
| 3.  | (a) shock      | (b) shocking  | (c) shocker | (d) shock tactics |
| 4.  | (a) foolish    | (b) fools     | (c) fooled  | (d) fooling       |
| 5.  | (a) at         | (b) in        | (c) by      | (d) on            |
| 6.  | (a) on         | (b) to        | (c) by      | (d) at            |
| 7.  | (a) cereal     | (b) serials   | (c) serious | (d) series        |
| 8.  | (a) sister     | (b) cousin    | (c) brother | (d) grandfather   |
| 9.  | (a) said       | (b) saying    | (c) says    | (d) say           |
| 10. | (a) in         | (b) as        | (c) by      | (d) on            |
| 11. | (a) these      | (b) them      | (c) those   | (d) this          |
| 12. | (a) migrated   | (b) migrates  | (c) migrate | (d) migration     |

**WRITING**

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1010/101017-multiculturalism.html>

Write about **multiculturalism** for 10 minutes. Correct your partner’s paper.

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# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about multiculturalism in Germany. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MULTICULTURALISM:** Make a poster about multiculturalism and how we can live side-by-side happily. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. MY COUNTRY:** Write a magazine article about multiculturalism in your country. Include imaginary interviews with immigrants and locals.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. LETTER:** Write a letter to Angela Merkel. Ask her three questions about multiculturalism. Give her three ideas on how to make it work. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

a. T      b. F      c. T      d. F      e. T      f. F      g. T      h. F

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. attempts   | a. tries     |
| 2. utterly    | b. totally   |
| 3. assessment | c. judgment  |
| 4. fooled     | d. kidded    |
| 5. reality    | e. truth     |
| 6. series     | f. sequence  |
| 7. concept    | g. idea      |
| 8. petty      | h. trivial   |
| 9. debates    | i. arguments |
| 10. revealed  | j. showed    |

## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. She was speaking at a conference | a. attended by her party |
| 2. a shocking assessment of         | b. multiculturalism      |
| 3. At the beginning                 | c. of the 60s            |
| 4. We fooled ourselves              | d. a while               |
| 5. to live                          | e. side-by-side          |
| 6. a series of anti-                | f. immigrant feeling     |
| 7. the concept of multiculturalism  | g. was "dead"            |
| 8. not only petty but outright      | h. irresponsible         |
| 9. negative feelings                | i. towards immigrants    |
| 10. just for the                    | j. social benefits       |

## GAP FILL:

### Merkel - Multiculturalism "failed" in Germany

The German chancellor Angela Merkel has told politicians that **attempts** to build a multicultural society in Germany have "**utterly** failed". She was speaking at a conference attended by her party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), on Saturday. Her **speech** was a shocking assessment of multiculturalism in Germany. She said: "At the beginning of the 60s, our country asked **foreign** workers to come to Germany and now they live in our country... We **fooled** ourselves a while and said: 'They won't stay... at some time they will go'" She went on: "But this isn't **reality**... And of course, the approach to **build** a multicultural society and to live **side-by-side** [happily]... has failed, utterly failed." Ms Merkel also said that immigrants to Germany had to learn German.

The chancellor's comments come after a **series** of anti-immigrant feeling from other German politicians. Perhaps the strongest comment came from Horst Seehofer, the leader of the CDU's Bavarian **sister** party, the CSU. He said the **concept** of multiculturalism was "dead". Another politician, Stephan Kramer criticized the CSU leader, saying his ideas were "not only **petty** but outright irresponsible". He attacked the **current** debates on immigration for being "hysterical". A recent study into immigration **showed** that over 30 per cent of Germans had negative feelings towards immigrants. The report, from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, **revealed** that 34.3 per cent of those surveyed believed Germany's 16 million immigrants **migrated** to the country just for the social benefits.

## LANGUAGE WORK

1 - d    2 - a    3 - b    4 - c    5 - c    6 - b    7 - d    8 - a    9 - b    10 - d    11 - c    12 - a

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