

Situations

What we did and said in May 2022

The Brida Community



Welcome

This is the second issue, but the first better looking one of “Situations”. I want to give you, members of the community, a summary of what we talked about in the previous month. But not just that.

You have contributed to the discussion and have used specific phrases or sentences in different situations. But what to do with them? They disappear in the discussion threads and then become buried. At least here, you have a little guide to keep at hand somewhere.

We welcome Ismar, Lisa and Daniel to the community. All three live in Brazil. That means we are now represented in four countries: France, Germany, Turkey and Brazil. It gives us even more opportunities to learn from each other and practise using the English language.

What did we talk about during May?

Martin in Kassel, Germany was ill, so we wished him a speedy recovery. Julia, in Mannheim, Germany, had a question about cleaning windows. I don't think she was expecting the answers we gave her. Ismar gave a presentation about his trip to Machu Picchu. We shared positive news, reacted to announcements, talked about local customs and traditions and asked some excellent questions.

We will go into more detail in the following pages.

By the end of May, a trend was beginning to emerge. It gave me the idea to set a monthly theme to focus on. For June, it is "being an Ambassador".

Our Brida is now heading into its fourth month. So far, so good. I hope you are not only finding it beneficial but also enjoyable.

Best regards

Frank Peters

New Members

Lisa

Hi!

My name is Lisa, from Brazil.

I'm 53 years old. I live in Manaus, the capital of the state of Amazonas, in the middle of the forest.

I'm happy to enjoy this community and I hope can learn so many things studying with you.

I enjoy traveling, reading, cinema, Pilates, dogs and cats, etc.

I have a son and a daughter. He is an engineer, and she is lawyer.

I live in Manaus, in the North of Brazil. It's far from São Paulo and we have different customs. Our environment is huge. We have the forest, the rivers, many fishes, insects.

Daniel

Hello everyone, my name is Daniel

I was born in São Bernardo Do Campo in the state of São Paulo. I'm 29 years old. I love to live in São Paulo because It's a beautiful city.

I Have a sister called Simone She is five years younger than me.

The Main Topic for June:

Be an ambassador.

Ambassadors represent their country in another country. Part of the job is to promote your country and explain why people should visit it.

Instead of representing a country, you are ambassadors for your town and region.



Would you like us to visit your area?

What would you show us?

What are your favourite spots that you enjoy going to?

What customs, historical monuments, festivals, and events do you think we should experience?

What would you like us to eat and drink?

And where? At home, in a restaurant?

Why not invite us to your region and tell us about it. You can share pictures and stories. Give advice we will not find anywhere else.

Alternatively, you want to visit a different region. You ask a community member what to do and see. What can somebody recommend? What can you do or see which is off the beaten track?

Describing, recommending, explaining, and telling stories. These are the things you can practise in this theme of the month.

What can we learn from you? In English!

When somebody is ill.

What happened?

Martin in Kassel contracted Covid.

Since last Tuesday, I have had to stay at home. And next Tuesday, I will be free and hopefully negative. So, I have time for my second spring cleaning.



What did you say?

What did you do?

You sent him good wishes.

Phrases you can use in such a situation:

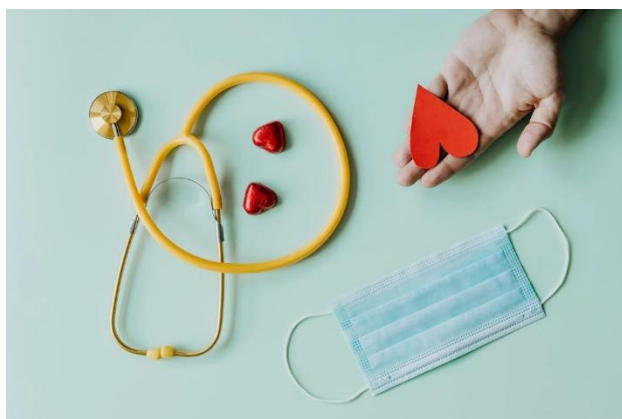
Hello Martin, get well soon.

Hello Martin, I hope you are feeling better.
Hopefully it was not serious.

...today is your first day of freedom, hope
everything is good.

Hopefully you are feeling better now. Did you
have any symptoms?

I am glad to hear that you had only minor
symptoms and that you are feeling better now.



Asking for advice.

What happened?

Julia wanted to know about cleaning windows.

[@martin](#) [@manfred](#) [@frank](#)

Hello everybody, I read that Martin spent his Easter weekend spring cleaning and Manfred and Frank wanted to learn about spring cleaning. I need some advice on how to clean my windows. Can you explain to me how it's done? Is cleaning in German different to cleaning in English or French

What did you do?

Joking in English.

This was probably the best thread of the month. Congratulations, because you used English in a funny way.

Do not underestimate how difficult this is when speaking a different language.



What did you say?

You combined certain words that you found funny and connected them with memories or images.

Unfortunately, your question is not precise? What kind of windows do you mean? Do you mean the operating system?

I have a good tip. Put Sidulin on the window and wipe it with a newspaper. The windows shine like new. The best newspaper is in the Bavarian language. In Chinese, I don't understand it.

my best solution is my mother. But I have a problem, I have now a car and my mother doesn't want to clean my car.

I clean my windows with a Kärcher window cleaner and ZEWA "wisch und weg". I do it once a year before I put up the Christmas decorations.

In Turkey we have professional window cleaner. They are very expensive for me but not for my wife.

My windows are always clean except when the sun shines on them. I think Chinese newspapers work well, yes, because I can understand it better.
I wash windows with a French spray, which is, according to our advertising, the absolute best in the world (just kidding!).

Cleaning, cleaning, I hate this word... I am not a cleaning fan!!! My mother-in-law was a cleaning expert and when she visited us she...

We need a minimum 90 minutes for all the windows.
After that, we need a good "after clean" in the form of an apéro. (pastis, ricard).

I find the best results with my 2 cloths. I bought them at a home sales party which I like because we finish like Bernard with an apéro!

Dear all, I use the Bavarian newspaper because when I don't like cleaning, I read them.

Your idea is excellent, if windows can clean themselves.

Asking fantastic questions.



What happened?

You asked some excellent questions.

What did you do?

You used the “Can you + verb” formula.

What did you say?

A question about the Pentecost Festival in Wissembourg

Can you describe what happens in more detail?

This produced a 1 ½ page description written by Clarisse, Monique & Bernard including some personal experiences.

Questions to Ismar, about Brazil.

Hello Ismar, you are the only person I know in Brazil. I'm interested in everything about Brazil, about food, fashion, culture, sport literature etc.

Ismar answered in a very informative and detailed manner.

Hello Ismar, here in Europe, Brazil's handling of the pandemic was observed with amazement. Can you tell us if the Brazilian population share the European point of view?

Ismar gave a long and highly interesting response to this question.

Hello Ismar, in our conversations, you have always mentioned reading and literature. Can you tell us more about Brazilian literature and what we should read? The only author I know is Paulo Coelho.

Again, Ismar gave a very long and detailed answer, including a link to a PDF version of a Brazilian author.

Responding to sharing information and experiences.

What happened?

Bernard introduced the Pentecost festival in Wissembourg and wanted to know if you would like to see pictures.

Next month we will have the Pentecost Festival in Wissembourg. It is a big and established tradition. The highlight is on Sunday. There is a big folklore parade. Associations from the different villages in the Alsace and France display their special dances and costumes. On both days there is a big artisanal market with local foods and products. On Monday morning is a fishing competition and, in the afternoon, there is a horse racing event at the local horse racing track, the “Hippodrome”. You can also place bets and hopefully win a lot of money. It is even shown on French television. In the evening, the festival finishes with a big fireworks display. This year will be the first time after the pandemic that the festival will take place. Would you like to see any pictures of this event?



What did you do?

You responded to his text and expressed interest in local customs and traditions.

What did you say?

Hello Bernard, can you show us some pictures of this event. I'm interested in the horse racing event and the fireworks display.

Hello, I don't live far away from Wissembourg. Maybe I will put it on my list for next year

I cannot go there that weekend because....Can you share some pictures with us?

Hello , it's really so exciting and very good . I want to see it if you can show us the pictures.

I live in Wissembourg, and I will not miss the festival in the good weather. I can't wait to watch the spectacular firework.
we know this festival.... I participated in the parade and danced. It was fun then, but now it's different. I hope you will win some money at the horse racing.

Making an announcement and reacting to it.

What happened?



As many of us know, Nathalie, her husband, and her daughter, Cléa, are moving to Seoul. Cléa announced the departure date:

Hello everybody, I'm happy to announce that finally, we have our departure date for Seoul. We will fly on July 31 and arrive on August 1st. We will stay in an aparthotel for about 1 month, before finding an apartment. I will start French high school on September 2nd. What a change for me!! I will share all my experiences with you.

What did you do?

You reacted, wished them well and wanted to learn about their experiences in Korea.

What did you say?

It will be a good experience, and we hope you will share your adventures with us.

I hope everything will work well for you in Seoul. It will be a big change from life in France. We are interested to hear the first impressions and experiences from you.

it sounds amazing..... It is mind boggling! I'm very curious how you will experience your first moments! I look forward to hearing about your life there!

Please share your experiences with us. This is a very courageous step that deserves a lot of respect. We are curious about your stories and look forward to reading and hearing them. Good luck.

Have fun and enjoy the time on the other side of the world!

I think it is a very big change for you. Have a good trip and good luck in your new home.

That is very good experience in the life, because South Korea is completely different than Europe. Enjoy your journey!

Nathalie and Cléa reacted to this:

Hi everyone! Thank you so much for your best wishes. We realize across your answers that we will live a very big experience, we are really fortunate, it's unique.

Sharing positive news.

What happened?

A simple question about positive things that happened was more difficult to answer than expected. Maxime asked the question.

What positive news do you have?

What did you do?

Many found the question challenging, but after some thinking, you found something to share.

What did you say?

I had a positive stressful weekend with many parties.

I try to make my balcony pretty with some plants, and i bought Asian style paper lamps, they are pretty. So, I can drink coffee in the morning there, read in the afternoon and have dinner under the pretty sunset.

One week ago, we bought an oleander tree and yesterday it started blossoming and in the next days we will start planting our first dahlias.

Yesterday I booked our summer holiday.

This week we planted strawberry plants on our balcony.

I am looking forward to a day with my family on Sunday

My quarantine time ended on Tuesday.



Being interested and curious.

What happened?

Sylvie heard on the grapevine, that Guy and Geneviève had been on a trip of a lifetime. She wanted to know more.

I heard that you were in Namibia! It's sounds amazing!! Could you tell me about your wild trip, about life in rural areas? What animals did you encounter, did you have a guide for your visit, how did you go from one place to the other? What did you eat and drink?



What did you do?

You wanted to learn more about their trip.

What did you say?

What are your general impressions concerning Namibia? And about the violence? one more question, please: how good is their German language level? Thank you!

Which language do people speak in Namibia? Can you show us the photos from your trip? I have never been to Namibia. I'm very curious to hear and see something about the country, people, animals, food, and drink.

Firstly, I want to ask you what did you eat and drink? Which part of Namibia did you see?

How many days have you already been in Namibia, and how long will you stay there, here in Bas-Rhin it is 18 degrees, sunny and cloudy, and how is the weather you have now?

Can you describe to us more about your trip to Africa? This is a very big continent.

Sharing an experience, describing a trip.

What happened?

Wenya and her husband spent a long weekend in Basel. She wanted to know if anybody was interested in learning about Basel.

Hello everyone, this afternoon my husband and me will drive around the area of Basel, it's the tri-country area of France, Switzerland and Germany. We will stay there for four days. Would you like to learn more about this area?



What did you do?

Several things happened here. Some expressed interest. Nathalie & Cl  a were there at the same time. Some described previous trips to Basel and Wenya described her trip.

What did you say?

Hello Wenya, can you tell us more about the region around Basel? How far away are the Alps?

Hello Wenya, what a coincidence, we just come back from Basel! We stayed 2 days this weekend,...

Wenya describes her trip

We drove from Germany to Switzerland and then back home through France.

It was quite an exhausting trip. Cycling on Lake Constance was very nice, but it was good to arrive home again.

Hi Wenya, what a pity you didn't have enough time to discover Basel more.

For me, Basel is an industrial town, a "pharma" town.

Basel is very expensive. Two years ago, we were in Basel to visit friends.

Writing for the Brida Journal.



What happened?

Cléa wrote a charming article about her passion for all things fashion.

Hello everybody, we have the joy to present you a new article that I (Cléa) wrote about fashion haute couture.

I hope you will like it. Good reading and see you soon for your reaction...

You can read the article here:

<https://brida.eu/the-country-of-fashion/>

What did you do?

We are still reading the article, so this section is not finished yet.

What did you say?

Thank you for the article, I learned a lot ...

I'm happy that you liked my article and that you learned something about haute couture.

Giving a presentation and giving feedback.

What happened?

We had a video meeting: Ismar in Brazil, Julia in Germany, Nathalie, Cléa and me in France. Ismar gave a presentation of his trip to Machu Picchu in 2018. It was also an exercise in listening to English in a different accent. The presentation lasted 30 minutes and but we talked for about 60 minutes.

What did you do?

The presentation was posted in the community and many of you watched it later.

What did you say?

Thank you, Ismar, for sharing your photos and experiences. It was fascinating to get an impression on how the Incas built and lived this ancient settlement. It was easy to follow your presentation because your English is so good.

Hello Ismar, thank you for your presentation. It is fascinating for me. I discovered Machu Picchu in the game, Geocaching. But now, I have more detail about this site. The pictures are good and, we can see a lot of the area.

Thank you, Ismar for sharing your impressions, with a lot of details and a good English. We had the luck to speak with someone who went to Machu Picchu. It complemented our knowledge about this site, after visiting the exhibition in Paris.



Useful Information – Our Brida Settings

As the community grows, so does the volume emails and notifications. You might find it annoying to receive so many emails. For this reason, you can block the email traffic in your settings. Here is how:

How to stop receiving emails when something happens in Our Brida.

1. Log into Our Brida.
2. Click on your name in the top right-hand corner.
3. Select “settings” from the menu bar on the left.
4. Select “email” from the menu bar on the top.

Activity	Yes	No
A member mentions you in an update using "@frank"	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
A member replies to an update or comment you've posted	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Messages	Yes	No
A member sends you a new message	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. If you do not wish to receive mentions using @your name, then click on “no”.
6. If you do not wish to receive emails when a conversation continues, then click on “no”.
7. Scroll to the bottom and click on “Save Changes”.

Quit the classroom, come to Brida.

Brida is a membership community dedicated to helping you improve and practise your English.

Would you like to join our community?

All you have to do is register. Simply go to

<https://www.our.brida.eu>

and discover, participate, and share.

Take advantage of the 30-day free trial, without any risk.

No payment details are required upon registration.

After 30 days, you decide if you wish to stay or not.

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