

Dear unknown friend,

I hope you are doing fine and having a great day so far!
I am doing fine and I am happy because it is drizzling outside. Oh - by the way, I am Tillija, 19 years old, studying Intercultural Communication in Ventspils, Latvia. However, originally, I am from Leipzig, Germany. I have lived my whole life there but my Mom is from Latvia, so every summer we would go to Latvia, visiting my family there. Now I decided I want to improve my Latvian, spend more time with my maternal family and get to know some Latvians my age. That is why I ended up in Ventspils - a peaceful and beautiful city at the Baltic Sea.

About me - I love learning languages, traveling, playing the piano and trying new things. I did gymnastics for ten years but I have kind of grown out of it that is why I am trying to find a new sport now. Currently I am part of a Latvian folk dance group. It is definitely an interesting experience.

In general I feel that music such as singing in a choir, doing the folk dance or being part of an orchestra is more common in Latvia than in Germany. It is something that connects the Latvians. However, that is only a personal observation. How is it in North Macedonia or more specific in your hometown? Is it common to sing, dance or play an instrument? Do you have other activities that are common to pursue? Or is it a big mixture of everything? And how about you - what do you do in your free time?

Another fun fact about me is that I did an exchange year in Barcelona, Spain. So I do know Spanish to a certain level. How about you? What do you know for languages?

And why did you decide to study something communication-related?

To talk a bit about Leipzig - I truly love my hometown. It offers a variety of nature, such as lakes, rivers, parks and forests but also has a quite active night life and other activities for the younger population. We have a university that is another reason which makes it attractive for students to move to Leipzig. I do miss it sometimes and also my German family, however, I thrive to experience different ways of living and I just had to move out of my hometown to make that happen.

But that is enough about me. I cannot wait to meet you and get to know you! I hope to see you soon!

Best regards,
Tillija