



Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Culture and society

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Harry shops in a convenience store known in Germany as a "Tante Emma Laden." It is the name for a small store that sells a variety of products for everyday needs - from groceries to household goods, drugstore items to newspapers and cigarettes. In a "Tante Emma Laden," the owner usually works at the cash register. The name comes from the fact that many of the stores used to be run by elderly ladies at a time when Emma was a common name. But this type of store has become rarer nowadays. Many of them have been replaced by supermarkets and discounters.

Nowadays, most people in Germany buy groceries in supermarkets, although they are not open around the clock. On Sundays and public holidays, they are closed all day - as are most stores in Germany. This is regulated by German law. But if you need a cold drink on a Sunday or realize you don't have any milk, you don't necessarily have to wait until Monday. Kiosks are also open at night and on Sundays in many places. Some regions have their own names for the place you can buy drinks, sweets, magazines or tobacco products. In eastern Germany, for example, they are called "Spätverkauf" or "Späti." In the Rhineland and Ruhr regions, they are known as "Büdchen."