

**"Clara is a dedicated musician who plays violin in the school orchestra. She always demonstrate teamwork, perservances and reliability."**

## Lär känna Clara

Clara är född 2010 och kommer från Tyskland. Hon kommer i augusti 2026 och stannar under ett läsår. Intressen är bl. a utomhusaktiviteter (gärna vandra) och musik (körsång och spelar fiol). Clara är vegetarian.

Kära värdfamilj,

Jag heter Clara, jag kommer från Tyskland och jag vill bor i Sverige för ett år. Jag lär mig svenska men min svenska räcker inte för det här brevet annu. That's why I'll switch to English now. I would like to spend this year with you because I want to learn about the Swedish culture and traditions. Furthermore, I love the Swedish countryside with its forests, lakes and of course the wildlife living there. I'm a person who loves spending time outside in every time of the year. In winter I love cross-country skiing and in the rest of the year going for a walk is usually an integral part of my everyday life. Unfortunately, in Germany I live in a pretty big city, which is why I'm normally not surrounded by nature. That's also one of the reasons why I want to do an exchange year in Sweden; I'm hoping to live closer to nature. Another big part of my life is music. For example, singing is one of my favourite things to do. Therefore, I sing in the choir of my hometown's cathedral. I also play the violin in my school's orchestra, and I generally enjoy listening to music. In addition to that, I also love reading and sewing or upcycling clothes. I would describe myself as a caring, social and especially very talkative person who's also kind of funny and loves to make others laugh. I get quickly excited about little things, for example I love observing how people react to others or when the person I talk with uses funny or old words. I'd generally say I love language, and everything related to it, for example writing: I love imagining stories and bringing them to paper and I also write poetry sometimes. I think writing is a perfect way to express my inner feelings and to process stress. The thing I love about the German language for example is, that you can literally put every word together with another one and it just makes sense. That's also why one of my favourite German words is "Fernweh" which literally means "distantache". It describes the strong desire to travel far away and discover new things which is also one reason why I want to study abroad. I feel like every person needs time to figure out things about themselves and I think that's one of the best ways to do it. And the big advantage is, that you get to meet new people, like I get to meet you! Other things I hope to achieve are finding (hopefully) lifelong friends, learning the Swedish language and of course making extraordinary memories. I also hope to experience Swedish traditions like the "Sankta Lucia" or "Midsommar". One of my favourite traditions is Christmas which I always celebrate with my family. We decorate the Christmas tree, set up our nativity scene and in the evening, we light up the candles at the tree, sometimes sing Christmas Carols, and unpack our presents. I am looking very forward to see how you spend those kinds of holidays. In exchange to that I'm also excited to introduce you a bit to German culture (if you're interested to). Now that I've told you, what I'm excited about to do with you, I want to tell you a bit more about my family and friends. Starting off with my family: there are my parents and my brother. My parents both are self-employed architects. They own a cute little house near our flat where they work together. Due to their independence, they can also work from home and generally organise their schedules more freely. That's why we're usually eating lunch together, except when I got school in the afternoon, and we also get to spend time together the rest of the day. In the evening for example we sometimes play board games or watch films on the sofa. With my brother, who's only around two years older than me, I don't spend much time apart from family activities. He's often playing video games with his friends and spends most of the time in his room. But to be fair, my brother and I do spend some time together: we're taking a dance class together. All in all, I'd describe my family as very loving and funny. And if there are bad vibes, we always find a way to solve the problems. Next, there are my friends: I'm currently being in an all-girls friend group at school. They're all very funny and open-minded people and we often do sleepovers, all seven of us, at my friend's house. Then there are of course my friends from my choir, which also happen to dance at the same dance school as me. We love to hang out together after our Friday afternoon choir practice. Not to forget there's my pen pal who lives about five hours away, near the Baltic Sea. We're regularly writing each other letters and postcards to stay in contact and to update us on our lives. I love the way we're only communicating through letters, because sometimes I get really annoyed by the fact that many people hang at their smartphones all the time. Which perfectly leads me to another characteristic of mine: I develop pretty strong opinions on topics that are important to me. For example, I would describe myself as a feminist, I really don't like fast fashion, which is also why I buy most of my clothes second hand, I think people should stop hanging on their phones the whole day and reconnect with nature. I support the LGBTQ+ community and I am committed to climate and animal protection. I also don't really vibe with the colour grey and the conformity which rules our society. I think people should concentrate more on themselves and live their lives like they're born to be, and not the way others want them to. So, as you can see, I love my freedom and the opportunity to say my opinion, but I'm also aware of my privileges and the incredible luck to have such a supporting environment.

I hope that this letter helped you to understand who I am and what my heart beats for, I'm looking very forward to getting to know you.

Med vänliga hälsningar,

Clara

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