



Theme sheet · 10 November 2026

Speakers' Corner 2.0 · The Shakespeare · 19:30 theme round

Herdecke in 2040 — what should the town look like? *Herdecke 2040 — wie soll die Stadt aussehen?*

Fourteen years from now. Walk down the Hauptstraße in your head: what is still there, what is gone, what is new? Dream a little, but stay concrete — a street, a building, a bus line, a shop. *In 14 Jahren. Geh im Kopf die Hauptstraße entlang: Was ist noch da, was ist weg, was ist neu? Träumen erlaubt, aber konkret bleiben.*

Useful words	Auf Deutsch
town centre / high street / pedestrian zone	<i>Innenstadt / Hauptstraße / Fußgängerzone</i>
empty shops / to close down / to open up	<i>Leerstand / schließen / neu eröffnen</i>
housing / affordable / to build / to renovate	<i>Wohnraum / bezahlbar / bauen / sanieren</i>
traffic / parking / cycle path / bus and train	<i>Verkehr / Parken / Radweg / Bus und Bahn</i>
the river / the lake / the woods / green spaces	<i>die Ruhr / der Hengsteysee / der Wald / Grünflächen</i>
young people / families / older people	<i>Jugendliche / Familien / ältere Menschen</i>
the town council / the mayor / to decide / to vote	<i>der Stadtrat / der Bürgermeister / entscheiden / abstimmen</i>
a meeting place / a pub / a market / a festival	<i>ein Treffpunkt / eine Kneipe / ein Markt / ein Fest</i>
I hope ... / I'm afraid that ... / if I could decide ...	<i>ich hoffe ... / ich fürchte, dass ... / wenn ich entscheiden könnte ...</i>
It would be great if ... / We should ... / We must not ...	<i>Es wäre toll, wenn ... / Wir sollten ... / Wir dürfen nicht ...</i>

Questions for the table:

- What do you love about Herdecke today that must still be there in 2040?
- What is the one thing you would change tomorrow if you were mayor?
- Will people still shop on the Hauptstraße — or will it be cafés, flats and offices?
- How will you get around town in 2040 — car, bike, bus, on foot?
- Will your children or grandchildren still want to live here? Why, or why not?

Sentences you can start with:

- “In 2040, I hope the Hauptstraße will be ...”
- “If I could decide, I would ...” / “The first thing I'd do is ...”
- “What we really need is ...” / “What we definitely don't need is ...”
- “Twenty years ago, Herdecke was ... — so by 2040 it might be ...”
- “That sounds nice, but who pays for it?”

Your notes — three words you want to use tonight, one thing you want to say:

Next time: Tuesday, 8 December 2026 — German traditions: how would you explain them to a British visitor? Ideas for later evenings welcome at the bar or via info@the-shakespeare.pub.