# Theme sheet · 17 November 2026

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

## Ten years of Speakers' Corner — why do we keep talking? *10 Jahre Speakers' Corner — warum reden wir weiter?*

In April 2016 Ursula started this table. Tonight we look back on ten years of English at the Shakespeare — and at the original in London that gave us our name. *Seit April 2016 wird hier Englisch gesprochen. Heute schauen wir zurück — und auf das Londoner Original, nach dem wir heißen.*

> **The original:** Since the Parks Regulation Act of 1872, a corner of Hyde Park near Marble Arch has been a place where anyone may stand up and speak on any subject — traditionally on a wooden soapbox, mostly on Sunday mornings. Karl Marx, Lenin and George Orwell all used it. Of about a hundred open-air speaking places in London between 1855 and 1939, it is the only one left.

| Useful words | Auf Deutsch |
|---|---|
| anniversary / to celebrate / to look back | *Jubiläum / feiern / zurückblicken* |
| a memory / I remember … / I'll never forget … | *eine Erinnerung / ich erinnere mich … / ich vergesse nie …* |
| a soapbox / to stand up and speak | *eine Seifenkiste / aufstehen und reden* |
| free speech / an opinion / to disagree | *Redefreiheit / eine Meinung / widersprechen* |
| to heckle / a heckler | *dazwischenrufen / ein Zwischenrufer* |
| rusty / to brush up / to practise | *eingerostet / auffrischen / üben* |
| a regular / a newcomer / to drop by | *Stammgast / Neuling / vorbeischauen* |
| to keep going / to stick with it | *weitermachen / dranbleiben* |
| a native speaker / an accent | *Muttersprachler/in / ein Akzent* |
| to feel at home / to belong | *sich zu Hause fühlen / dazugehören* |

**Questions for the table:**

- When did you first come to Speakers' Corner — and what brought you here?
- What is your favourite memory of this table?
- What have you learned here — apart from English?
- If you stood on a soapbox in Hyde Park for one minute, what would you talk about?
- What should Speakers' Corner be like ten years from now?

**Sentences you can start with:**

- “The first time I came here, …”
- “I'll never forget the evening when …”
- “My English used to be … — now it's …”
- “If I had a soapbox, I would talk about …”
- “In ten years, I'd like this table to …”

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

Next time: Tuesday, 8 December 2026 — Christmas at home, in your youth, in other countries — and New Year. Ideas for later evenings welcome at the bar or via info@the-shakespeare.pub.