Differences for cafes/restaurants in Germany:

-People seat themselves! Only very rarely would you ever find a "please wait to be seated" sign. The table/booth your group chooses to sit at is up to you.  
-The only time waiters/waitresses will come to you is the at the very beginning. Other than that, they need to be called over/waved at to know that your group is ready to either order more things or pay.  
-Water is not free! I repeat, water is not free!  
-Water Part 2: It's also typically going to be the bubbly kind of sparkling water. For whatever reason, Germans drink that much more commonly than Americans do.  
-Water Part 3: yet another difference for water, and technically all drinks for German cafes/restaurants --> there is no ice. Drinks will almost always be served nice and cold/chilled, but ice is not something they really have at cafes/restaurants.  
-On of the topic of drinks, there are no free refills in Germany.  
-Tipping! Here is the big thing about tipping. They never ever leave money sitting on a table. If someone did indeed do that, they would just giggle to themselves and think "An American was here..." So how does it work? Let's say the total for your items is 7 Euro 60. You would simply give 8 Euro and say "keep the change."  
If it cost 8 Euro 20, you would give them 9 Euro and say "Keep the change."   
What about 4 Euro 90? Give 5 Euro and say "Keep the change."  
  
This is how tipping works in Germany. There are no percentages involved or anything to make it complicated. It's just a matter of rounding up to the next reasonable Euro. Technically, if you don't use a "Keep the change" phrase, they will indeed give you change and that will be a remark to them that you did not like their service. Rounding up and having them keep the change is the standard way to say you respected their service. The other reason they do tipping this way in Germany is to minimize how many coins they get back as change. They already have a lot more coins than the United States use!