

A Current Account II

Bill Riley from Canada is back in the German bank branch. Once again, Simon Schneider is working at the counter.

Simon Schneider

Hello Mr Riley. Nice to see you again.

You've made a good decision. Have you got your passport with you?

Let's go over to my desk. Take a seat, please. Would you like to have a look at a copy of our application form while I enter some details from your passport into the computer? I'm sorry it's in German. Just ask me if there is anything you'd like me to explain.

It means: "Are you acting on your own account?" In other words, is this account for you or are you opening it for someone else to use? It is because of the law against money laundering.

SCHUFA is the name of the German banks' credit reference agency. By signing the SCHUFA declaration you authorize us to ask the SCHUFA for information to check your financial standing. And you allow us to inform the SCHUFA about you, too.

No problem. You can grant your wife power of attorney, but of course we will need a specimen signature from her to arrange that.

Fine. Now may I ask you for some more details which are not in your passport? Then I'll print out the application form and when you've checked it, you can sign it and the account will be open.

...

Bill Riley

Hi. You know you gave me some advice about accounts last Friday. Well, I decided to open a current account here.

Sure. Here it is. And I've brought along a pay slip as well.

Thanks. I'm afraid my German is not that good. Could you tell me what this question means: "Handeln Sie auf eigene Rechnung?"

Well, it's for me of course, for my salary. And there's another word I don't know. What does "SCHUFA" mean?

I see. By the way, I want my wife to have access to the account, too. Can I arrange that now?

She's flying over from Toronto next week. Well, I think I understand everything now.

Sure. What else would you like to know?