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Learning German — The Best Tips and Resources

Free and affordable ways to learn German: apps, courses, language exchange partners, and everyday tips for rapid progress.

Deutsche Begriffe: Deutsch lernen | Sprachkurs | Volkshochschule | VHS | Tandem

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Why Learning German Is Important

Without German language skills, many things in Germany are difficult: finding work, handling bureaucracy, making friendships. Even **basic skills (A1/A2)** make a huge difference in everyday life.

Free Resources

Apps

- **Duolingo** — learn through games, great for beginners (A1-A2)
- **Deutsche Welle (DW)** — courses from A1 to C1, completely free
- **Ankommen** — official app from BAMF for newcomers
- **Memrise** — vocabulary with spaced repetition system

Online Courses

- **VHS (Volkshochschule)** — affordable courses in every city (from 1-2 €/hour with discount)

- **DW Learn German** — self-paced courses at all levels
- **Goethe-Institut** — distance courses (paid, but high quality)

YouTube Channels

- **Easy German** — street interviews with subtitles
- **Deutsch für Euch** — grammar well explained
- **Learn German with Anja** — funny and memorable

Finding Tandem Partners

A **Tandem** is language exchange: you help someone with your native language, and they help you with German.

- **Tandem App** — free, worldwide
- **ConversationExchange.com** — online and in-person
- **Local language cafés** — many cities offer weekly meetups

The 5 Most Important Tips

1. Every Day 15 Minutes

Better than once a week for 3 hours. Consistency is key.

2. Use German in Everyday Life

- While shopping: read product labels in German
- At the supermarket: pay in German at the checkout
- Signs, menus, advertisements — everything is practice material!

3. Consume German Media

- **News:** Tagesschau with subtitles
- **Series:** "Dark", "How to Sell Drugs Online (Fast)" with German subtitles
- **Podcasts:** "Slow German" (slowly spoken news)

4. Mistakes Are Allowed!

Germans appreciate you trying to speak German — even with mistakes. Nobody expects perfect German.

5. Practice Writing

Keep a **diary in German** — even just 3 sentences a day. This reinforces grammar and vocabulary.

Finding Language Courses

Provider	Level	Cost	Special Feature
VHS	A1-C1	from 1 €/hour	Most affordable
Integration Course	A1-B1	2.29 €/hour	Required/subsidized
Goethe-Institut	A1-C2	from 800 €	High quality
Private Schools	A1-C2	200-600 €/month	Intensive courses
Vocational Language Course	B2-C1	Free	For job seekers

Useful Expressions for Beginners

- **Ich spreche wenig Deutsch.** — This way your conversation partner knows to speak slowly
- **Können Sie das bitte wiederholen?** — Asking questions is not a weakness
- **Was bedeutet das?** — Questions show interest
- **Entschuldigung, wo ist...?** — The classic for getting around