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## Free & Affordable German Courses — VHS, Online, Apps

Overview of free German courses: Volkshochschule, online platforms and apps for learning German.

**Deutsche Begriffe:** Volkshochschule | VHS | Sprachkurs | BAMF | Integrationskurs | Sprachniveau

### Free German Courses

Integrationskurs (BAMF-funded)

- **600-900 hours** of German instruction + 100 hours orientation course
- Goal: Language level **B1**
- Cost: **€2.29/hour** (personal contribution) — with Bürgergeld/social assistance: **free**
- Registration: through **BAMF** (Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge)

Volkshochschule (VHS)

The **VHS** offers affordable German courses in almost every city:

- A1-C1 courses
- Cost: approx. **€100-300** per semester (reduced approx. €50)
- Evening courses, intensive courses, weekend courses
- Registration: directly at your local VHS

### Free Online Platforms

Platform	Level	Special Feature
<b>vhs-lernportal.de</b>	A1-B2	Official VHS platform, with tutor

Platform	Level	Special Feature
<b>DW Deutsch lernen</b>	A1-C1	Deutsche Welle, videos + exercises
<b>Goethe-Institut Online</b>	A1-B1	Professional exercises

### Free Apps

- **Duolingo** — gamified, good for beginners
- **Ankommen** (BAMF app) — specially for newcomers
- **busuu** — community-based learning
- **Tandem** — find language partners

## Affordable Options

### Professional Language Courses (DeuFöV)

- From level **B1** onwards — job-related German
- Free for job seekers and Bürgergeld recipients
- Goal: B2 or C1
- Registration via Jobcenter or employment agency

### University Language Courses

- Often **free** for enrolled students
- Studienkolleg for preparation before university

## Language Levels Explained

Level	Meaning
<b>A1</b>	Beginner — simple sentences
<b>A2</b>	Basic conversations
<b>B1</b>	Handle everyday situations (Integrationskurs goal)
<b>B2</b>	Work-capable (professional course goal)
<b>C1</b>	Fluent — university studies possible

Level	Meaning
<b>C2</b>	Native speaker level

## Tips

- Start with the **Integrationskurs** if you're eligible
- Supplement the course with apps and online exercises
- Speak German in everyday life — every conversation helps

--- Status: March 2026. All information without guarantee.