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German Courses Online — Free and Affordable Options

Best online Deutschkurs: free offers, apps, exam preparation, and tips for learning German effectively.

Deutsche Begriffe: Deutschkurs | Online-Kurs | Sprachniveau | Zertifikat | VHS | Goethe-Institut | telc

Why Learn German?

Deutsch is the most widely spoken language in the EU and the foundation for a successful life in Germany. Good German language skills help you with:

- **Government matters** — forms, letters, conversations
- **Work** — Most jobs require at least B1
- **Daily life** — shopping, doctor visits, neighbors
- **Integration** — making friends, understanding culture
- **Residence permits** — B1 or B2 required for settlement permit (Niederlassungserlaubnis) and citizenship

Language Levels (CEFR)

The **Common European Framework of Reference** (CEFR) divides language skills into 6 levels:

Level	Description	Typical Use
A1	Beginner — simple sentences, self-introduction	Deutschkurs start

Level	Description	Typical Use
A2	Elementary — simple conversations	Minijob, basic government matters
B1	Intermediate — manage everyday situations	Settlement permit, many jobs
B2	Upper Intermediate — communicate fluently	Apprenticeship, study, qualified jobs
C1	Advanced — understand complex texts	University, academic careers
C2	Mastery — native speaker level	Interpreting, journalism

Free Online Deutschkurs

Deutsche Welle (DW)

Deutsche Welle (dw.com/deutschlernen) offers one of the best free options:

- **Nicos Weg** — interactive video course (A1–B1), very popular
- **Deutsch Interaktiv** — self-paced course (A1–B1)
- **Top-Thema** — current news in simple German (B1–B2)
- **Langsam gesprochene Nachrichten** — news you can read along with
- Available in **30+ languages**

VHS Lernportal

VHS Lernportal (vhs-lernportal.de) offers free BAMF-approved courses:

- **A1, A2, B1, B2** — structured courses with exercises
- **Exam preparation** — DTZ, telc, Goethe
- **Tutor support** — real tutors correct your assignments
- Also available as an **app**

Goethe-Institut

Goethe-Institut (goethe.de) offers:

- **Free:** "Deutsch für dich" — community with exercises and learning games
- **Paid:** Online-Kurse with teacher (from €200/course), very high quality
- **Exams:** Goethe-Zertifikat A1–C2 (internationally recognized)

Other Free Offers

- **Duolingo** (app) — learn German playfully, good for beginners
- **Busuu** (app) — basic version free, Premium with tutor feedback
- **Memrise** (app) — learn vocabulary with spaced repetition system
- **YouTube** — channels like "Easy German", "Deutsch lernen mit der DW", "Learn German with Anja"
- **Tandem** (app) — language exchange with native speakers (free)

Paid Online-Kurse

Provider	Cost	Level	Features
Goethe-Institut	from €200	A1–C2	Teacher, certificate
DeutschAkademie	from €150	A1–C1	Live classes, small groups
Lingoda	from €60/month	A1–C1	Native speakers, flexible
Babbel	€7–13/month	A1–B2	App + web, structured
Preply	from €10/hour	A1–C2	Private lessons, personalized
italki	from €8/hour	A1–C2	Private lessons, affordable

Deutschkurs Integrational Course — The Official Course

The **Deutschkurs integracional course** is the BAMF (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees)-funded language course for newcomers:

- **600 hours of language instruction** (A1–B1) + 100 hours of orientation course
- **Cost:** €2.29/hour (your share), **free** on basic income support
- **Final exam:** "Deutsch-Test für Zuwanderer" (DTZ)
- **Providers:** VHS, Goethe-Institut, private language schools
- **Authorization/Requirement** through the immigration office

Also available **online**: Since the COVID pandemic, BAMF-approved **Online-Integrationskurse** are available.

Professional Language Courses (DeuFöV)

After completing the Deutschkurs integrational course, you can attend **professional language courses**:

- **B2 course** (400 hours) — for most professions
- **C1 course** (400 hours) — for academic professions
- **Specialized courses** — for nursing, retail, industrial technology
- **Cost:** free if unemployed or on basic income support, otherwise €2.42/hour

Exams and Certificates

Which Exam Do I Need?

Purpose	Exam	Level
Settlement permit	DTZ, Goethe B1, telc B1	B1
Citizenship	Goethe B1, telc B1, DTZ	B1
Apprenticeship	Goethe B1/B2, telc B1/B2	B1–B2
University	TestDaF, DSH	B2–C1
Doctor/Pharmacist	Professional language exam	C1
General	Goethe-Zertifikat, telc	A1–C2

Exam Costs

Exam	Cost
DTZ (Deutsch-Test für Zuwanderer)	included in Deutschkurs
Goethe-Zertifikat B1	approx. €250–280
Goethe-Zertifikat B2	approx. €260–290
telc Deutsch B1/B2	approx. €150–180
TestDaF	approx. €195

Tips for Learning German

For Beginners (A1–A2)

1. Practice daily — 20 minutes daily is better than 3 hours on weekends

2. Listen and repeat — podcasts, YouTube, "Langsam gesprochene Nachrichten" (DW)

3. Learn vocabulary systematically — flashcards (Anki app), vocabulary book, Memrise

4. Learn articles too — der Tisch, die Lampe, das Buch (always learn DER/DIE/DAS!)

For Advanced Learners (B1–B2)

1. Use German in daily life — shopping, talking to neighbors, reading official letters

2. Consume German media — Tagesschau, German series (Netflix with subtitles)

3. Find a language exchange partner — exchange languages (e.g., Arabic for German)

4. Practice writing — emails, letters, journal entries in German

For Everyone

• **Mistakes are normal** — Germans are happy when you speak German!

• **Visit a language café** — free conversation groups in many cities

• **Volunteer language helpers** — many organizations offer free conversation courses

• **Use hamboorg.city** — our assistant speaks your language and explains German concepts