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Free platform for foreigners in Germany

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hamboorg.city — is and will be FREE

Sprachcafé and Tandem — Free German Practice

Sprachcafés, Tandem partners, apps like HelloTalk, VHS conversation courses, and library resources for free German language practice.

Deutsche Begriffe: Sprachcafé | Tandem | Konversationskurs | Volkshochschule | VHS | Sprachpartner

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German Practice — Without Course Fees

What you learn in German class must be applied in everyday life. Sprachcafés, Tandem partnerships, and conversation groups are ideal supplements — and are usually **completely free**.

Sprachcafé — What Is It?

A **Sprachcafé** is an open meeting point where people from different backgrounds speak German in a relaxed atmosphere. Often over coffee and cake at community centers, libraries, or cultural associations.

Typical Format

- **Duration:** 1.5–2 hours, weekly
- **Costs:** Free (sometimes drinks on a donation basis)
- **Level:** All levels welcome, often mixed tables by level
- **Moderation:** Volunteer helpers lead conversations and assist with errors

Where to Find

- **Caritas, Diakonie, AWO** — almost every city has offerings
- **Public libraries** — many offer regular Sprachcafés
- **Welcome initiatives** — local volunteers, e.g., "Café International"
- **Facebook groups:** Search for "Sprachcafé + [Your city]"

Tandem Partnership

In a **Tandem**, two people with different native languages meet and help each other: you practice German, your partner practices your language.

Tandem Rules

1. 50/50 principle: Equal time for each language (e.g., 30 + 30 minutes)

2. Regularity: Meet at least 1× per week

3. Corrections welcome: Actively ask for corrections

4. Vary topics: Daily life, work, news, hobbies

Tandem Apps and Platforms

App/Platform	Cost	Special Feature
Tandem (App)	Basic functions free	Matching by interests, text + audio + video
HelloTalk (App)	Basic functions free	Correction feature, integrated translation
ConversationExchange	Free	Web platform, in-person or online meetings
MyLanguageExchange	Basic function free	Large community, pen pal friendships

VHS Conversation Courses

Volkshochschulen (VHS) offer affordable conversation courses:

- **Costs:** Approx. 50–120 € per semester (10–15 sessions)
- **Level:** Usually B1 and above
- **Advantage:** Professional instruction, structured topics
- **Discount:** With social card often 50% cheaper

Library as a Learning Space

Public libraries offer far more than just books:

- **Free library card** in many cities
- **Language learning software:** Rosetta Stone, Overdrive (E-books) — free with card
- **German newspapers and magazines** for reading practice
- **Study rooms** with WiFi for independent learning
- **Reading hours** — also for adults (Easy Language)

Daily Practice Tips

- **Shopping:** Order at the deli counter instead of buying pre-packaged items
- **Greet neighbors:** Practice small talk in the stairwell
- **Join clubs:** Sports, gardening, choir — German in a hobby context
- **Listen to podcasts:** "Slow German" (beginners), "Deutschlandfunk" (advanced)
- **Keep a diary in German:** Write 5 sentences daily, even with mistakes

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