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# Language

## Language basics

In order to find a job in Germany and generally get by, you need to learn German. Here you will find opportunities and contact points for appropriate language courses. There are various ways to learn German. Your residence status has an influence on which option you can choose. As long as you do not yet speak German well enough yourself, you will need help. You can also find contact persons for this here.

## Language level and certificates

You can attend a German course. There are six levels: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2. If you are learning a new language, you start at A1. You have C2 in your mother tongue. The six levels mean in detail:

### A1: Beginner

You can understand and use simple words and sentences.

You can introduce yourself and others.

You can ask questions about yourself.

You can answer questions.

A person speaks slowly and clearly. You can converse with them.

### A2: Basic knowledge

You can understand sentences and frequently used words.

You can communicate in simple, everyday situations. You can describe your background, education and surroundings.

### B1: Advanced use of language

You can understand a lot. You can say something about familiar topics and personal interests.

You can talk about experiences and events, dreams, hopes and goals. You can give brief reasons or explanations for plans and opinions.

### B2: Independent use of language

You can understand the most important content of complex texts on concrete and abstract topics. You can also understand specialised discussions in your field of specialisation.

You can communicate fluently and spontaneously. You can justify a point of view on a topical issue with advantages and disadvantages.

### C1: Specialised language skills

You can understand a lot of demanding, longer texts. You can also grasp implicit meanings.

You can express yourself clearly, in a structured and detailed manner on complex issues.

### C2: (Near) native speaker level

You can understand practically everything you read or hear with ease.

You can summarise information from different written and oral sources. You can give reasons and explanations in a coherent presentation. You can express yourself spontaneously, very fluently, precisely and with nuance.

## Language courses

## Initial orientation courses (EOK)

The German courses for initial language orientation are for language beginners. Here you will learn elementary German. You will discover life in Germany. The course is designed to make your life in Germany easier. You will learn how to orientate yourself in everyday life. A course comprises 300 units of 45 minutes each. Various topics are discussed in the course. You will learn about "health/medical care", "work", "kindergarten/school", "housing", "local orientation/transport/mobility". The focus is on oral communication: participants should learn to find their way around in everyday life as quickly as possible. The course also teaches German values.

Initial orientation courses are primarily intended for asylum seekers with unclear prospects of remaining in Germany. Are there still places available? Then recognised asylum seekers with good prospects of staying may also take part. Do you still have to go to school? Then the initial orientation courses are not for you. Have you been offered a place on an [integration course](#)? Then you can switch to this course. The people on the courses have very different educational backgrounds. Illiterate people can attend the courses, as can university graduates. Initial orientation courses are free of charge.

💡 German is spoken on the course - interpreters are not present.

📍 [BVH Salzwedel](#)

📍 [BVH Gardelegen](#)

## Integration courses

In this course you will learn German. You will learn more than just the basics. At the end of the course you will be able to speak German at level B1. You will also learn about the culture, politics and social customs in Germany.

The integration course concludes with the "German Test for Immigrants" (DTZ) and "Living in Germany" (LiD) examinations.

The [job centre](#), the [social welfare office](#) or the [immigration office](#) can oblige you to take part in an integration course. You have not been obliged? But you would like to take part in a course? Then you can apply for an integration course at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). You can find the application form [here](#). Do you need help with the application? Then contact your [advice centre](#).

In the Altmarkkreis Salzwedel district, the district adult education centre offers integration courses.

📍 [Kreisvolkshochschule Salzwedel](#)

📍 [Kreisvolkshochschule Gardelegen](#)

You can find other organisations here:

🌐 <https://bamf-navi.bamf.de/de/>

## Vocational language courses (DeuFöV)

In this course you will improve your German language skills. The courses are designed to improve your vocabulary. You will learn job-related words. Are you already working? Are you still doing an apprenticeship? Do you want to start working soon? Then attend this course. Ideally, you should have already attended an integration course.

Each of these courses concludes with a certificate examination. In addition to the basic courses, there are various specialised courses with different focuses.

To attend a job-related German course, you need an authorisation or commitment. You can obtain this either from the [Jobcenter](#) or from the [Agentur für Arbeit](#). You can also submit an [application](#) to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF).

Vocational language courses are offered by the district adult education centre.

You can find the locations here.

📍 [Kreisvolkshochschule Salzwedel](#)

### **German as a foreign language (DaF courses)**

The district adult education centre offers various courses in German as a foreign language. (DaF) various courses. The courses are available for different [language levels](#). The courses train speaking, reading, writing and listening comprehension skills. The courses are subject to a fee. You have to pay for these courses yourself. If you are interested in a course, you can get advice. You can also find the courses [here](#).

📍 [District Adult Education Centre Salzwedel](#)

📍 [District adult education centre Gardelegen](#)

### **Voluntary language courses**

You can learn German in your free time. It's more fun together. There are volunteers who organise meetings. People meet up to exchange ideas. You can also learn German by playing games.

📍 [Netzwerkstelle Migration & Integration Salzwedel](#)

📍 [Netzwerkstelle Migration & Integration Gardelegen](#)

📍 [Jugendmigrationsdienst](#)

📍 [Begegnungscafe Kluhs](#)

📍 [eXchange e.V.](#)

### **Online language courses and online study**

#### **Online language courses**

You can learn German on your smartphone or computer (also free of charge). Take advantage of the great offers to learn German quickly and make good use of the waiting time for a language course. These offers can also be useful during a language course. You can find more

information about the language levels (A1-C2) [here](#).

🌐 [Lunes App](#): The app helps you at school. And in training. And at work. The app has lots of information about words from different professions. There is a picture for every word. So you learn the German words. And there is a read-aloud function. Various exercises make learning fun. You can learn and memorise the vocabulary.

🌐 [Serlo ABC](#): A free alphabetisation app for self-study or as a supplement to a language course. The app is approved as a textbook for integration courses.

🌐 [Mein Deutschbuch](#): Comprehensive offer for learning the German language. The website is aimed at learners and teachers, A1-B2.

🌐 [Deutsch-Uni Online \(DUO\)](#): Language learning programmes for A1 to C2.

🌐 [Basic language course from Deutsche Welle](#): This online language course contains modules on literacy and job-related language skills. There is also a placement test.

🌐 ["The City of Words"](#): App and website for playful vocabulary learning without prior knowledge in German, English, French and other languages.

🌐 [VHS learning portal](#): Free German courses. You can also learn to read, write and do maths. There is also help for preparing for school-leaving exams in German, maths and English.

🌐 [Language placement test](#): onSET-online language placement test for refugees and for language categorisation for full-time and voluntary workers.

## Online study

Many refugees and asylum seekers want to go to university. But it is difficult for them. Because they have to pay a lot of money for university. And they often need good certificates and papers. Kiron Higher Education offers a good solution: Tuition fees are not important for refugees and asylum seekers. And they don't need good certificates and papers. The university offers places for everyone. The first 2 years go to university online. You can watch the courses in English. You can also add subtitles in any language. In the third year you go to the university on site. You can learn German while studying. You also get other help and counselling.

🌐 [Website Kiron](#)

## Learn German without a course

### Language cafés

There are also many volunteers in so-called language cafés (or Sprachtreffs) who can help you learn German. In the language cafés you can meet up with other people and speak German with them. This allows you to practise your German and learn new words. And maybe even make new friends along the way. In the language cafés, it doesn't matter whether you have previous knowledge or not. Everyone sits together in small groups and just talks.

📍 [Netzwerkstelle Migration & Integration Salzwedel](#)

📍 [Netzwerkstelle Migration & Integration Gardelegen](#)

📍 [Begegnungscafe Kluhs](#)

📍 [eXchange e.V.](#)

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## Libraries

In the public [libraries](#) you will find many dictionaries and learning materials for learning German. You can also study there in peace and quiet and usually also use the WLAN.

## Interpreting

### Find interpreters and translators

💡 In Germany, official documents such as certificates, marriage or birth certificates may only be translated by state-certified translators. These translations can be very expensive. It is best to check in advance whether you really need a certified translation and compare the translation prices.

You can find state-certified translators [here](#). You can have recognised translations done at [Inlingua Sprachschule in Stendal](#) or at [Übersetzungsbüro in Magdeburg](#)

### Find a language mediator

You don't speak German very well yet. You have to go to an authority. Then you need an interpreter. An interpreter is also helpful when you go to a [doctor](#). Or at parents' evenings at school. Or at nursery school. You will then understand better what people are trying to tell you.

Contact the [Projekt SISA](#) your [helper group](#) or the Koordinierungsstelle Migration.

### Become a language mediator

Do you speak English or German very well? Then you can support your compatriots who do not speak English or German. For example, you can accompany them to visits to the authorities or other appointments. Get in touch with the Koordinierungsstelle Migration or at [Projekt SISA](#).

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