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Language

Language basics

The German language is important for finding a job and getting by in Germany. There are various ways in which you can learn German.

There are certified language courses, for example integration courses or vocational language courses. Your residence status determines what access you have to language courses. There are integration courses organised by the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). If you would like to attend such an integration course, please contact the local course organisers directly. You can find an overview of course providers in Bochum on the [BAMF-NAVi](#) website

Further information on integration courses can be found [here](#).

There are also mother and Eltern-Cafés und voluntary programmes.
These courses can rarely be completed with a recognised certificate or proof.

Language level and certificates

You can attend a German course. You will then receive certificates that prove your language level.

There are different levels: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2.

A: Elementary language use

B: Independent use of language

C: Competent use of language

You need B1 / B2 in Germany, for example, if you want to do an apprenticeship. You need C1 in Germany if you want to study German. You can find out what you need to be able to do here: [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages \(CEFR\)](#)

As a rule, you need language skills at B1 level for everyday life in Germany.
For an apprenticeship or a job, B2 is generally expected. C1 is usually expected for university studies.

Language courses

Integration courses

In this course you will learn German. At the end of the course you will be able to speak German at level B1. You will not only learn the basics. You will also learn about culture, politics and living together in Germany. You can take part in a course for young people if you are still a minor, i.e. not yet 18 years old.

There are different courses, for example **courses for people with hearing or visual impairments**. You can find the different courses under **course types** here: [BAMF-NAVis](#)

For people who cannot read and write or do not know the Latin alphabet, there are so-called

literacy courses.

The integration courses are free of charge for refugees and other people who receive social benefits. The integration course concludes with the examinations „Deutschtest für Zuwanderer“ (DTZ) and "Leben in Deutschland" (LiD).

If you have passed the Leben-in-Deutschland test, you have also passed the naturalisation test.

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? Apply for [authorisation](#) from the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). Do you need support in applying for authorisation? Local course providers or [advice centres](#) can help you with this.

Vocational language courses (DeuFöV)

Would you like to learn German for your job?

Vocational language courses help you to learn German for specific professions. This will give you a better chance of getting a job.

There are basic courses and specialised courses. The specialised courses have different focuses. Each of these courses concludes with an exam. You can reach different language levels in the courses. C2 is the highest language level.

What do I need to take part?

You need an **authorisation or commitment** to take part in a vocational language course. You can get this from the [job centre](#) and the [Federal Employment Agency](#). You can also submit an application to the [Federal Office for Migration and Refugees \(BAMF\)](#).



For partial acceptance, you need a German language level of at least **B1**.

Learn German without a course

Online language learning programmes

You can learn German on your smartphone or computer. You can also use some offers free of charge. Take advantage of these offers. This way you can learn German quickly and use the waiting time for a language course. These offers can also be useful in addition to a language course.

The Municipal Integration Centre of the City of Bochum offers the learning overview [Learning German - digital and interactive](#). You can find more online language learning offers here:

- [Beginners | DW Learn German](#) - With this online language course, you can complete literacy modules and acquire language skills for specific professions. There is also a placement test. On this page you will also find current news in B1 and B2 level and [news](#) that are read aloud slowly.
- [Practise German for free](#) With this app and on this website, you can learn German in a fun way and without prior knowledge. The website is multilingual.

- [Lunes App](#): The app helps you at school, in training and at work. The app has lots of information on vocabulary from different professions. There is a picture for each word. This is how you learn the German words. There is also a read-aloud function. Various exercises make learning fun. So you can learn and memorise the vocabulary.
- [Serlo ABC](#): With this app you can learn the Latin alphabet and alphabetise yourself without help. You can also use the app alongside your language course. The app is approved as a textbook for integration courses.
- [VHS learning portal](#): Free German courses. You can also learn to read, write and do maths. You will also find help for preparing for school-leaving exams in German, maths and English.

Voluntary language courses

In addition to integration courses, there are many opportunities to learn German in Bochum. The programmes are often run by volunteers. These are usually people whose first language is German. These programmes are a good way to learn some German if you are unable to attend an integration course.

Tandem sponsorship

You can also look for a tandem mentor. This is a person who speaks German very well and helps you to learn German. you can find information on tandem mentoring here: [Bochum Volunteer Agency](#) (BEA)

Language cafés

What is Sprachcafés?

A Sprachcafé is like a meeting in a café. You sit together, talk and practise a language. In Bochum there is Sprachcafés where you can learn German. You are allowed to make mistakes here. In language cafés you can **learn German and meet new people.**



Participation is free of charge.

In Bochum there is Sprachcafés for different groups. For example, for students, older people or mothers with their children.

For everyone:



[IFAK e. V.](#)



[Grumme - Raum für ein Miteinander – das Internationale Begegnungs- und Sprachcafé](#)

For parents:



[Elterncafé - Ev. Jugendhilfe Bochum](#)



[Elterncafé - Gerthe/Rosenberg](#)



[Mama Mia children's café - Kinderschutzbund Bochum](#)

 [Language café for pregnant women and mothers after childbirth - Donum vitae Bochum e. V.](#)



Further offers can also be found at the [family education centre](#) of the city of Bochum.

For students

 [Language café Bochum for students \(RUB\)](#)

 [Language café Studienspur for students \(RUB\)](#)

For senior citizens

 [Language café Gerthe - Senior Citizens' Office North](#)

Library

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 and [computers](#) on site.

There are many libraries in Bochum. For example, the [city library](#) of the city of Bochum in the city centre.

There are also libraries in the [city districts](#). You can borrow books for children and adults there. The libraries also organise [events](#).

Library card

You need a library card to borrow books, e-books, CDs and games. The library card does not cost much. The library card is free for people under the age of 18. To register, you can ask the staff on site. You can find more information [here](#).

Interpreting, translation, language mediation

What does interpreting mean?

You don't speak German well yet? Do you have an important appointment at a public authority? Then you should take someone with you who speaks German very well. This person is an interpreter. Or an interpreter. They translate spoken language into your language. They work professionally. An interpreter usually costs money.

What is a translation?

Sometimes your documents need to be translated. Do you want to start a new job? Then your boss will need your documents in German. Official documents are, for example, certificates and deeds. In Germany, these may only be translated by state-certified translators. Translations can be very expensive. It is best to check carefully beforehand whether you really need a certified translation. Then compare the prices.

 You can find interpreters and translators [here](#).

What is language mediation?

Sometimes you have appointments at your children's school. Or you have questions for an authority. Language mediators can accompany you to these appointments. They translate what is said into your language. Language mediators can be neighbours, acquaintances, friends or [volunteers](#).