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The German Language

General information about the language

The official language in Germany is German.

There is the standard language ("High German") and regional dialects of the spoken language. In Kaufbeuren the dialects  [Swabian](#) and  [Allgäuerisch](#) are spoken; in the Neugablonz district, the northern Bohemian dialect of  [Paurisch](#) can still be occasionally heard..

The "Gesamtprogramm Sprache" (General Language Program) of the Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge, abbr. BAMF (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees)

The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) is responsible for  [offering language courses for migrants.](#)

A1, B1, C2 - What does the language level mean?

In Europe there is an international system of evaluating language-competence levels, the "Common European Reference Framework." This is a uniform yardstick for the classification of language skills. It consists of 6 different levels, from A1 (beginners) to C2 (experts). It covers different dimensions of language acquisition: listening, reading, writing and speaking.

"A" for "beginner": **A1** and **A2** mean a person is a beginner in a language. The person has basic knowledge and understands simple sentences.

"B" as in "Better": **B1** and **B2** mean that a person has advanced language skills. If you want to start an education or get a job, you should have at least B1 (even better: B2).

"C" as in "Champion": **C1** and **C2** mean that a person has "business fluent" language skills. C2 is approximately comparable to the language of a native speaker.

How good is your German?

Test your German for orientation. The tests are free of charge. (You do not receive a certificate. It does not replace the assessment by a language school!.)


Click here for the tests:

 <https://www.goethe.de/de/spr/kup/tsd.html>

 [Free language test](#)

The Kolping Academy and the Vhs Kaufbeuren offer tests to determine your language level in Kaufbeuren. There is a fee.

"Deutsch-Test für Zuwanderer," abbr. DTZ (German Test for Immigrants): external examination

Do you need a certificate for your knowledge of German? You can take an exam as an "external participant." Ask a language school for the "Deutsch-Test für Zuwanderer." Ask for an appointment and the costs. The test and the goals are described in this app under  [Informationen BAMF.](#)

The DTZ (German Test for Immigrants) is an examination. (The exam is also taken by all persons who complete an integration course.) You register for the exam. You take the test. If you pass the test, you receive a certificate (B1). The test costs about € 160. It lasts 1 day (with breaks).

You can prepare and practice the test. Materials are available in this app:

■ [Arbeitsblätter und Hörbeispiele](#) (worksheets and audio examples)

■ [Wortliste](#) (word list)

■ [Beispiel-Test](#) (sample test)

Integration courses

What is the integration course?

Migrants learn German in an ■ [integration course](#).

The course lasts several months. It often takes place from Monday to Friday, in the morning or afternoon. It lasts 4 to 5 hours a day.

An integration course has two parts: the German language course of 600 teaching units, or Unterrichtseinheiten, abbr. UE, and an orientation course (How does Germany function?) of 100 UE.

At the end there is an exam for both parts. If you pass the exam, you receive the certificate "Integrationskurs." This usually also means that you have reached language level B1.

There are special integration courses, e.g. with alphabetization or for second alphabet learners (people who first have to learn the Latin alphabet).

It is also important for parents with small children to take part in a course. Your child can, for example, be looked after in a ■ [kindergarten](#) during the hours of instruction. It is also possible to offer special courses only for women or young people.

Can I participate in the integration course?

There are various regulations which are determined by the Aufenthaltsgesetz (Residence Act).

Migrants who are allowed to stay **permanently** in Germany are allowed to take part in the integration course.

Asylum seekers must wait for the decision of BAMF (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees) on their asylum application. You will receive mail when your application has been decided on and you are to take part in a course. Under these circumstances the course is mandatory.

Asylum seekers from certain countries, which give them "**good prospects of staying**", are an exception. Currently these countries are: Eritrea and Syria. If there are enough free places, persons from these countries may already participate in the course during the asylum procedure. You will receive word by mail if you are eligible to participate in the integration course .

Late repatriates, EU immigrants, or immigrants from other countries may also be entitled or obligated to participate in the integration course. Please inquire directly with the course provider about the possibilities of participation.

How do I find a course?

■ [The Kolping Academy](#) and the ■ [yhs Kaufbeuren](#) offer integration courses in Kaufbeuren.

If you are already a recognized asylum seeker and need help with your search, please ask your contact person at the Job center.

Then register for a course near you. The course providers will help you with registration.

An overview of all current integration courses can be found here:

■ [Link to integration courses](#) (quick search: postcode: 87600, Integrationskurs: Integrationskurs, geplante oder laufende Kurse auswählen, Suche) select planned or current courses, search)

It is also possible to attend an integration course as a self-payer (you have to pay the course fee yourself).

Einstufungstest (Placement test) for integration courses

Possible participants in integration courses will be tested before the course starts in order to ensure participation in a suitable course. In the district of Ostallgäu and the city of Kaufbeuren, fixed times are regularly set for these placement tests. If you would like to take a placement test, please contact the respective educational institution. The test is also possible without registration.

■ [Here you will find the current dates of the placement tests.](#)

Contact persons:

■ [Die Kolping Akademie](#)

■ [vhs Kaufbeuren](#)

■ [Caritas Migrationsberatung](#) (click on: Kaufbeuren / Marktoberdorf / Ostallgäu)

■ [Integrationslotsin](#) (Integration Pilot)

■ [Abteilung Öffentliche Sicherheit und Ordnung](#) (Department of Public Safety and Order)

Job-related language courses (DeuFöV) according to § 45a AufenthG (Residence Act)

Occupation-related German courses help to further improve your German language skills. You can attend the so-called DeuFöV courses while working,, training, preparing for a vocational qualification, or as preparation for entering an occupation in Germany.

The basic modules of the DeuFöV courses aim to lead to language level B2 in three modules of 400 teaching units (UE) each. Each of these modules concludes with a certificate examination. The prerequisite for participation is a language level of at least B1. As a rule, you must therefore have successfully completed an integration course.


It is possible to attend the courses as a self-payer.

There are also special modules that only expect a language level of A2 . Other special modules are specially tailored to certain professional or occupational groups.

The offer is open to, among others, the following groups:

- Persons with a migration background in accordance with SGB III (German Social Law), which includes German citizens with a migration background, EU citizens, other immigrants

including persons in asylum proceedings with good prospects of staying (i.e. from Eritrea and Syria) and persons granted temporary residence according to § 60a Para. 2 Sentence 3 AufenthG. If you belong to one of these groups, you need a participation entitlement from the Agentur für Arbeit (Employment Agency). Persons who have fled from so-called safe countries of origin are excluded from the current asylum procedure.

- Persons with a migration background in the SGB II context, including German citizens with a migration background, EU citizens as well as other immigrants and officially recognized persons seeking protection. If you belong to this group of persons, you need a participation entitlement from the Job Center.
- Persons in an  [initial qualification procedure](#), in vocational training or in a recognition procedure, or persons who need a certain language level for admission to their profession in Germany. If you belong to one of these groups, you will need a BAMF participant's entitlement.

 [The Kolping Akademie](#) and the  [vhs Kaufbeuren](#) offer vocational German language courses in Kaufbeuren.

Tip:

 [Learning vocational German in health care occupations with the help of an app.](#)

German courses for initial linguistic orientation (Erstorientierungskurse)

German language courses for initial language orientation, also called **initial language-orientation courses** (Erstorientierungskurse) provide both basic knowledge of German and information about life in Germany. The content provides participants with a practical start in their new environment and facilitates orientation in everyday life. A course comprises 300 teaching units (UE) of 45 minutes each. The course modules cover topics such as "health / medical care", "work", "kindergarten / school", "living", "local orientation / traffic / mobility." The focus is on oral communication: the participants should learn to find their way in everyday life as quickly as possible. In initial orientation courses, the teaching of values in the local society is also important across all modules.

Initial orientation courses are primarily intended for asylum seekers with unclear prospects of staying. To the extent that the course is not yet full, recognized asylum seekers, persons granted temporary permission to stay, and asylum seekers with good prospects of staying may also participate. The initial orientation courses are not, however, intended for persons who are subject to compulsory schooling (6 to 15 years) or compulsory vocational schooling (16 to 21 years). If you gain access to an integration course while participating in the initial orientation course, you can switch courses. The people in the courses have very different educational backgrounds. Some are illiterates, others are academics. Initial orientation courses are free of charge.

The language of instruction is German - interpreters are not present in the course.

Contact one of your [refugee and integration counsellors](#). They will help you find a suitable course.

Current and planned language courses and language level assessment

In Kaufbeuren, 2 educational providers currently offer BAMF-approved language courses.

German courses in the district of Ostallgäu and the town of Kaufbeuren:

[Deutschkurse Ostallgaeu+Kaufbeuren Juli bis Dez 2025.pdf](#)

Before a language course, you will be tested to see which course you need.

Tests take place in Marktoberdorf, Füssen, Buchloe and Kaufbeuren.

You can find the dates for placement tests under [Dates for placement tests for integration courses OAL KF July-Dec 2025.pdf](#)

To participate in an integration course, register with an educational institution and, if necessary, send an application for admission to the BAMF (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees). All information and the form can be found [here](#).

Step 1

- Fill out the [application for admission to an integration course](#)
- Enclose a copy of your permit or tolerated stay permit
- Send to the following address:

Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

Department 53 A

Streitfeldstr. 39

81673 München

E-mail: service@bamf.bund.de

2nd step

Register with the [educational organisations](#) in the district of Ostallgäu or the town of Kaufbeuren

If there is no course for you, please contact the nearest educational institution and they will look for a suitable option together with you.

Sprachkurse bei der Kolping-Akademie

Hier finden Sie die Sprachkursangebote der Kolping-Akademie Kaufbeuren:

Aktuelle und geplante Kurse:

Integrationskurse (Allgemein):

- Kurs 239 von 27.04.21 bis 05.04.22 (Di - Fr 08:15 - 12:30 Uhr)
- Kurs 247 von 20.09.21 bis 25.10.21 (Mo - Do 13:00 - 16:15 Uhr)
- **Kurs 252 von 25.04.22 bis 25.05.23 (Mo - Do 13:00 - 16:15 Uhr)**

Integrationskurse für Eltern:

- Kurs 223 von 05.10.20 bis 27.06.22 (Mo - Fr 08:30 - 12:00 Uhr)
- Kurs 238 von 12.04.21 bis 29.07.22 (Mo - Fr 08:30 - 12:00 Uhr)
- Kurs 242 von 12.07.21 bis 25.11.22 (Mo - Fr 08:30 - 12:00 Uhr)
- Kurs 253 von 25.04.22 bis 27.07.23 (Di - Fr 08:15 - 12:30 Uhr)

Integrationskurse mit Alphabetisierung:

- Kurs 246 von 15.09.21 bis 20.12.22 (Mo - Fr 08:30 - 12:00 Uhr)

Integrationskurse am Abend:

- Kurs 219 von 02.03.20 bis 10.10.22 (Mo, Di, Do 18:00 - 21:15 Uhr)
- Kurs 232 von 26.10.20 bis 21.11.22 (Mo, Mi, Do 18:00 - 21:15 Uhr)

Berufsbezogene Sprachkurse Ziel B1:

Berufsbezogene Sprachkurse Ziel B2:

- Kurs B2-1-27 von 16.09.21 bis 23.06.22 (Mo, Do, Fr 08:00 - 12:15 Uhr) momentan hybride Unterrichtsform
- Kurs B2-1-29 von 07.03.22 bis 30.11.22 (Mo, Di, Mi 08:00 - 12:15 Uhr)
- Kurs B2-1-30 von 14.02.22 bis 17.01.23 (Mo, Di, Do 18:00 - 21:15 Uhr) im virtuellen Unterrichtsraum

Berufsbezogene Sprachkurse Ziel B2 (für Personen im Anerkennungsverfahren Gesundheitsfachberufe):

- Kurs B2-1-25 von 14.04.21 bis 06.05.22 (Mi, Do, Fr 08:00 - 11:15 Uhr) im virtuellen Unterrichtsraum
- Kurs B2-1-32 ab 09.05.22

Berufsbezogene Sprachkurse Ziel C1:

- Kurs C1-1-26 vom 20.09.21 bis 26.07.22 (Mo + Di 08:00 - 12:15 Uhr)
- Kurs C1-1-31 vom 28.03.22 bis 22.12.22 (Mo, Di, Do 17:00 - 20:15 Uhr) im virtuellen Klassenzimmer

Allgemeine Informationen:

■ [Integrationskurs](#)

■ [Berufsbezogene Sprachkurse](#)

Bei Fragen:

■ [Die Kolping Akademie Kaufbeuren](#)

■ [Petra Schraml \(Integrationskurse\)](#)

■ [Constanze Heppner \(Berufsbezogene Sprachkurse\)](#)

German courses at the vhs Kaufbeuren

Here you will find the language courses offered by the vhs Kaufbeuren (current and planned courses):

General integration courses (BAMF, 700 lessons)

- **Course S934-251 to S937-251 (modules 4 - 7) afternoon course** from 07/07/2025 to 23/03/2026 (Monday to Thursday from 13:30 to 16:45)
- **Course S903-252 to S907-252 (Modules 3 - 7) Morning course** from 16/09/2025 to 05/05/2026 (Tuesday to Friday from 08:00 to 12:00)
- **Course S925-232 to S927-232 (Modules 3 - 7) Evening course** from 06/10/2025 to 29/07/2026 (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday from 17:00 to 21:00)
- **NEW Course S921-253 to S927-253 (Modules 1 - 7) Morning course** from 22/09/2025 to 27/07/2026 (Monday to Thursday from 08:15 to 12:30)
- **IN PLANNING** Integration course for low-literate learners from 2026 - Please make a reservation!

Job-related German B2 language course (BAMF, 500 lessons)

- **Course S912-253 (500 units) Evening course** from 30/09/2025 to 30/06/2026 (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 16:45 to 20:45)

Examinations

- **German test for immigrants (DTZ) A2/B1 (g.a.s.t.)** - only for integration course participants -
on 07 February 2026 (u.V.), 21 March 2026 (u.V.), 20 June 2026 (u.V.), 18 July 2026 (u.V.)
- **German test profession (DTB) B2 (telc)** - only with authorisation certificate -
on 04 July 2026 (u.V.)

telc German A2/B1 German

on 25 April 2025.

Important note on the language test:

The **DTZ A2/B1** and **DTB B2** exams are BAMF exams.

This means that you can only take part if you have an authorisation certificate from the BAMF,
for an integration course or a vocational language course, for example.

Do you not have a certificate of eligibility?
Then the **telc Deutsch A2-B1** exam is the right one for you.
This exam is also officially recognised - for example for

residence permits, naturalisation or recognition of your profession in Germany.
We will be happy to help you find the right exam for you.

- **Naturalisation test**
on 18 October 2025 and 31 January 2026, further dates in 2026 to follow.

German as a foreign language

- **German A1.1 (course S028-253)**: Tuesday, 18:00 to 21:00, 07.10.2025 to 16.12.2025
- **German A1.2 (course S028-261)**: Tuesday, 18:00 to 21:00, 13.01.2026 to 24.03.2026
- **German A2.1 (course S029-253)**: Monday, 18:00 to 21:00, 06.10.2025 to 15.12.2025
- **German A2.2 (course S029-261)**: Monday, 18:00 to 21:00, 12.01.2026 to 23.03.2026
- **German B1.2 (course S033-253)**: Wednesday, 18:00 to 21:00, 24/09/2025 to 17/12/2025
- **German B1.3 (course S033-261)**: Wednesday, 18:00 to 21:00, 14.01.2026 to 25.03.2026
- **German B2.2 ONLINE (course S037-253)**: Thursday, 18:00 to 20:00, 25/09/2025 to 18/12/2025

ALPHA+ Better reading and writing - free of charge!

- **ALPHA+ Besser lesen und schreiben - Deutsch für den Beruf**: Course S068-253, 16.09.2025 to 28.07.2026, Tuesday, 18:30 to 20:45, vhs, Spitaltor 5, room 203:
No course fee, entry possible on an ongoing basis by arrangement with the course leader!
- **ALPHA+ Besser lesen und schreiben - Deutsch für den Beruf**: Course S069-253, 18.09.2025 to 30.07.2026, Thursday, 18:15 to 20:30, vhs, Spitaltor 5, room 203:
No course fee, entry possible on an ongoing basis by arrangement with the course

instructor!

- **ALPHA+ Better reading and writing - German for women (with childcare):** Course S071-253, **23.09.2025 to 28.07.2026, Tuesday 08:30 to 11:30, Generationenhaus, Hafenmarkt 6-8:** No course fee, entry possible on an ongoing basis by arrangement with the course leader!

SPRECHstunde German - free of charge!

Are you learning German and need more help? Do you sometimes have questions for which there is no time in the German course? Would you like to repeat important topics from the German course with other learners and understand them better? Or would you like to prepare for an exam together with others? Then the SPRECHstunde Deutsch is just right for you!

Depending on the wishes and interests of the participants, we talk about important questions from the German course. You can practise speaking in a relaxed atmosphere. You will receive support from a teacher. The fun of learning is not neglected. Is German really a difficult language? No!

The **SPRECHstunde** is a free programme in addition to our integration and German courses. Anyone who is learning German and already has some knowledge (from level A2) can take part.

When? From 06.10.2025 to 24.11.2025, every Monday from 16:00 to 17:00.

Where? Generationenhaus, harbour market 6-8, Kaufbeuren.

How much does it cost? It costs nothing.

How to join? You can start at any time!

German course counselling

I will be happy to advise you on all questions relating to your enrolment, course participation and examinations. Please make an appointment with me:

vhs Kaufbeuren, Francesca Frey, Spitaltor 5, first floor

Phone 08341/9996926, e-mail: frey@vhs-kaufbeuren.de

Further information can be found here:

 [Adult Education Centre Kaufbeuren](#)

 [Integration course](#)

 [Job-related German courses with funding](#)

Please get in touch with us:

■ freym@vhs-kaufbeuren.de

■ [Adult Education Centre Kaufbeuren](#)

Integration courses at Bildung und Beruf Kaufbeuren

New location in Kaufbeuren (Josef-Landes-Str. 38, Buron-Center, 2nd floor):

Full-time in the morning (Mon-Fri, 08.00-12.15) from 27.01.2025 (Bamf 282)

Full-time in the afternoon (Mon-Fri, 13.00-16.15) from 03.02.2025 (Bamf 283)

Alpha course in the afternoon (Mon-Fri) in Kaufbeuren from 07/07 (Bamf 283)

☎ [08341/96631-11](tel:083419663111) Mrs Bals

@k aufbeuren@bildungundberuf.com

Registration is also possible on site.

Language level determination

If you already speak German and would like to know how this knowledge is evaluated in Germany (■ [language level](#)) or require proof of your language competence for your application documents, you can have yourself tested here:

■ [Competence assessment, German as a foreign language](#) (Kompetenzfeststellung Deutsch als Fremdsprache)

Language level determinations subject to charges:

--> at: [Kolping Academy](#) [vhs](#)

[DTZ](#) (A2 -B1) all on request

[A2](#) (Certificate)

[B1](#) (Certificate)

[B2](#) (Certificate)

[C1](#) (Certificate)

Voluntary and free language learning offers

"Alpha+"

These are courses for people who have significant difficulties in reading or writing. The focus is on the practical use of the German language in and general topics relevant to such areas as individuals and family, housing and rent, education, communication, mobility, offices and bureaus, and offers of assistance. In addition to the alphabet, common everyday terms and words are taught and simple sentences and texts such as short messages are practiced, as is the filling out of forms.

These courses are offered by ■ [vhs Kaufbeuren](#).

■ **Conversation Club: Wir sprechen Deutsch** (We Speak German)

You are learning German and need additional support? Do you want to repeat and delve deeper into important topics and contents of the German course with other learners? Or maybe even prepare for an exam together? Then you have come to the right place!

This working group is a free additional offer for our integration and German courses and is open to all interested learners of German!

Stammtisch (Regulars' Reserved Table): We Speak German Family Center

■ Hüttenstraße 10, Kaufbeuren-Neugablonz

🕒 every Monday from 19:00

Volunteer helpers

There are many supportive people to help you learn. These offers are voluntary. Volunteers do not get any money for this service and are active in their free time. The [integration pilot](#) have an overview of the offers in Kaufbeuren.

Learn German yourself

Stadtbücherei (City Library) Kaufbeuren and Neugablonz Branch

Kaufbeuren has 2 libraries.

There you can borrow literature and materials for learning German.

■ [Libraries in Kaufbeuren](#) (Büchereien in Kaufbeuren)

Free online offers

There is a wide range of language learning programs on the Internet and in the app stores. Many are free of charge.

Online:

■ [Deutsche Welle](#)

■ [German Adult Education Association](#)

■ [Goethe Institute](#)



[Lunes Learning-App](#)

■ [TandemPartners](#)

■ [Lernox](#)

■ [DuoLingo](#)

■ [Learn German online](#)

■ [German at work](#)

Apps:

- [Serlo ABC](#)
- [Einstieg Deutsch](#) (available in several languages)
- [Arrival-App](#)
- [FunEasyLearn](#)
- [50 Languages](#)
- [NAVI-D](#)
- [Deutschtrainer A1](#)

Translation programs:

- [deepl.com](#)
- [Google Translator](#)
- [Microsoft Translators](#)
- [babelfish.de](#)

Fairy tales in easy language

There are many well-known fairy tales.

A fairy tale is a very old story.

Once upon a time: fairy tales always start like this.

For example:

- Hansel and Gretel.
- Or Snow White.

But many people don't know these fairy tales.

Some of these fairy tales are difficult.

And that's why many people can't understand these fairy tales.

On this page you will find fairy tales in plain language.

These fairy tales are written simply.

You can read the fairy tales:

- Read.
- Listen to them.
- And see them in [sign language](#).

Fairy tales in [easy language](#)

Become an interpreter yourself

Your spoken German is already very good? You want to support your compatriots who do not speak enough German? For example, you can accompany them on visits to the government offices or other appointments.

Then feel free to contact us and make yourself available as a lay interpreter.

- [08341 437427](#)
- integreat@kaufbeuren.de

Lay and cultural interpreters in Kaufbeuren

A common language is important for living together in a society. This is why there are language courses in Kaufbeuren for people who come from abroad.

However, the German learnt in language and integration courses is often not enough to communicate well. Good communication is necessary on many occasions.

The costs for professional interpreters are often very high.

The education office of the city of Kaufbeuren has organised a lay and cultural interpreter training course. Diakonie Kempten also trains cultural interpreters.

The integration guides have placed 35 men and women.

The education office and Diakonie Kempten cover the costs of interpreting. The lay interpreters only work within the framework of the volunteer allowance.

Cornelia Paulus and Claudia Warmdt organise the interpreters. They can be contacted on 08341 9081052 and arbeitskreis-asyl-kaufbeuren@gmx.de.