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# Language

## General information

### Why learn German?

Learning a new language in a new country is a major challenge, but it's also the most important stepping stone towards integrating successfully. Learning a language is about more than just learning a language. It promotes and strengthens self-confidence, helps with individual development and opens up new cultural, social and economic prospects.

If you're proficient in a country's language, you'll be able to find your way around society, gain independence and have the opportunity to successfully take part in education and employment, as well as building up a social life. This is why the City of Krefeld is committed to helping immigrants pick up language skills as soon as possible.

You can find concise information on the topic of language acquisition, suitable options for courses and advice, and helpful tools and communication aids on the following websites.

## Language levels

### Language levels

There are different language levels to indicate a person's language skills. In language courses and integration courses, the levels according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages are used:

A distinction is usually made as follows:

- A1:** Beginner
- A2:** Basic knowledge
- B1:** Advanced language use
- B2:** Independent use of the language
- C1:** Specialised language use
- C2:** Almost native speaker level

The six levels mean in detail:

#### **A1: Beginner**

You can understand and use simple words and sentences. You can converse with a person if they speak slowly and clearly.

#### **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 environment.

#### **B1: Advanced use of language**

You can understand a lot, for example on the topics of work, school or leisure. You can say something about familiar topics and your interests. You can report on events and describe hopes and goals. You can give short explanations.

## **B2: Independent use of language**

You can understand the main content of complex texts. You can understand specialised discussions in your field of specialisation. You can communicate spontaneously and fluently and hold a conversation with native speakers without effort. You can express yourself clearly and in detail and take part in discussions.

## **C1: Specialised language skills**

You can understand a lot of demanding, longer texts. You also grasp implicit meanings. You can express yourself spontaneously and fluently. You can express yourself clearly, in a structured and detailed manner on complex topics.

## **C2: Almost native speaker level**

You can understand practically everything you read or hear.

You can summarise information from written and oral sources. You can express yourself spontaneously, very fluently and precisely. You can also make clear finer nuances of meaning in more complex situations.


## **Meaning of the language levels**

In some situations, you need a certain language level:

For example, **language level B** is recommended if you want to start an apprenticeship or a job. As a rule, you do not need to show a certificate.

A **B1 certificate**, on the other hand, is a prerequisite for a settlement permit or naturalisation, for example.

For certain professions, but above all for studying, you will need a **C1** certificate.

 **Caution:** Not all C1 examinations are accepted for university studies. Ask your university about this.

## **Do I need a certificate?**

In the situations explained below, you either need a certificate confirming your German language level or it is very much recommended.

## **Application for an apprenticeship or job**

A certificate confirming your German language level improves your chances of getting an apprenticeship placement or job. You can stand out better compared with other applicants if

you have a certificate.

## **Vocational further education or qualification**

You often need a specific German language level to take part in vocational qualification courses. Often you need to prove this with a certificate.

## **Access to studying at higher-education colleges and universities**

You can prove sufficient German language proficiency to undertake a course at a higher-education college or a university with one of these certificates:

- German Language Diploma of the [Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs](#) (second ability level)
- [DSH2](#)
- [TestDaf, ability level 4 in all 4 subsections.](#)
- Assessment test (= attendance of the Studienkolleg / preparatory college. No further tests necessary)
- Certificates that are recognised by bilateral agreement or other agreements recognised by the Kultusministerkonferenz (Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs, KMK) or the Hochschulrektorenkonferenz (German Rectors' Conference, HRK)
- [Goethe Institute](#) examinations at level C1 or C2  
['telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule'](#)
- Completed German language and literature studies (not education studies)
- Leaving certificate at Gymnasium, Studienkolleg, Fachhochschule or Hochschule level

## **For an unlimited residence permit (Niederlassungserlaubnis / settlement permit)**

For a Niederlassungserlaubnis (settlement permit) you have to prove sufficient knowledge of German. This is possible with the certificate after successful participation in the 'German test for migrants' (DTZ) integration course. A German school-leaving qualification can also serve as a certificate of German competency.

## **For naturalisation (getting German citizenship)**

In addition to a certificate proving sufficient German language knowledge, you also have to prove knowledge about the legal and societal rules as well as the way of life in Germany. This could be the 'Life in Germany' test, for example. This test is the final qualification of the orientation course (a part of the integration course).

## **Important test certificates**

## **Integration course certificate**

This certificate is one of the requirements for the [settlement permit \(Niederlassungserlaubnis\)](#) to be issued and will make your [naturalisation \(Einbürgerung\)](#) easier. With this certificate you can already apply for German citizenship after seven (instead of the usual eight) years of legal residence in Germany, as per the Citizenship Act (§ 10 Para. 3 Sentence 1 StAG)

To obtain the certificate you have to reach the total result of B1 in the language test 'Deutsch-Test für Zuwanderer' (DTZ; German Test for Immigrants) and then pass the test on 'Leben in Deutschland' (LiD; Life in Germany).

### **'Deutsch-Test für Zuwanderer' (DTZ; German Test for Immigrants)**

The DTZ consists of a written and an oral exam. The written exam lasts 100 minutes and contains listening, reading and writing exercises. The oral part of the exam lasts around 15 minutes.

If you don't pass the DTZ the first time, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) can allow you to repeat 300 tuition hours and to repeat the oral exam for free.

The DTZ is used in the [General Integration Course](#), and a variation on the test is also used in the [Youth Integration Course](#).

### **'Leben in Deutschland' (Life in Germany) test**

The 'Leben in Deutschland' (Life in Germany) test takes place after an orientation course. It includes questions on the political system in Germany, religious diversity and gender equality, for example.

Further information and preparation

You can find further information on the two types of test as well as model tests on the [BAMF website](#).

The free [app 'Leben in Deutschland'](#) can help you prepare for the 'Leben in Deutschland' test.

## **Test certificates to access universities and higher education**

The language of instruction at universities in Germany is generally German. For this reason, you have to prove your knowledge of German in order to access university studies. There are exceptions, however, such as [international degree courses](#).

If German is required, you have to prove your knowledge of German with one of two approved exams: The 'Deutsch als Fremdsprache' (TestDaF, German as a Foreign Language) test or the 'Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang' (DSH, German Language Exam for Access to Higher Education).

You do not require a separate German test in the following cases:

- university-entrance qualification (Abitur) at a German-speaking school
- Neues Goethe-Zertifikat (C2: Großes Deutsches Sprachdiplom) or one of the previous exams (Kleines Deutsches Sprachdiplom / Großes Deutsches Sprachdiplom)

- Zentrale Oberstufenprüfung from the Goethe Institut (up to 2011)
- Goethe-Zertifikat C2: Großes Deutsches Sprachdiplom (since 2012)
- Deutsche Sprachdiplom (Stufe II) – German Conference of State Education Ministers
- ‘telc Deutsch C1 Hochschule’ exam

💡 Please ask your chosen university what requirements you have to fulfil in order to study there!

The Goethe-Institut’s website features a short, free placement test. If your knowledge of German is still not enough, you can also attend a language course in Germany. Lots of universities offer language courses, particularly in the semester holidays.

You can find more information in the [DAAD-Datenbank für Sprach- und Fachkurse \(DAAD database for language and specialist courses\)](#).

### **‘Deutsch als Fremdsprache’ (TestDaF, German as a Foreign Language)**

You can take the TestDaF in your home country. You can find out about exam locations, dates, prices, application possibilities and more on the [TestDaF website](#). You can also download preparation materials there.

The certificate is valid permanently. Some universities demand a ‘current’ certificate, however, meaning it can’t be more than two or three years old.

The TestDaF comprises four exam parts: Reading, listening, writing and speaking. These parts evaluate the language skills you need in order to study in Germany or to work in academia.

The price depends on the country where you wish to take the test. In Germany the TestDaF costs €195. You can take the TestDaF as many times as you like.

### **‘Deutsche Sprachprüfung für den Hochschulzugang’ (DSH, German Language Exam for Access to Higher Education)**

You can only take the DSH in Germany. You don’t necessarily have to take the test at the university where you want to study. You can also apply to almost any university with the certificate. The only university that doesn’t recognise the DSH certificate is the University of Stuttgart.

The DSH certificate is valid permanently; it doesn't expire. Most universities demand a C1 certificate to register for the exam. You also have to pay between €70 and €150 for the exam. If you don’t pass the DSH exam, you can try again as many times as you like. You can find the approximate periods of time when the individual universities offer the DSH exam [here](#).

You can find more information about the exam [here](#).

💡 Please always contact the International Office at your chosen university for more detailed information.

**For refugees: ‘[onSET-Deutsch](#)’ test**

Refugees can use the onSET-Deutsch (previously 'onDaF') test to find out and certify their language level. Universities can provide the test for free for groups of refugees interested in studying: Please consult your university's International Office regarding this.

You can find further information about university studies for refugees [here](#).

## Course providers and counselling for language courses

### What do you need to consider?

- Authorisation to attend: If you would like to attend an integration course, you can apply for a certificate of eligibility from the BAMF under certain conditions. The BAMF will then finance your course. The integration course providers and advice centres will help you with the application.
- Obligation to attend: If you are an asylum seeker or have received recognition for your residence, you may be obliged to attend an integration course by the immigration office, social welfare office or job centre. This means that you must take part in an integration course.
- Placement test: Before the course, you will take a test to see how well you speak German. This will determine which course you can start on. There are different levels to describe the language level. In a course you are with other people who have a similar language level.

### Advice on integration courses

There are various organisations that can help you find a suitable language course. For example, you can search for a course in your area [on](#) the [course page of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees](#).

All integration course providers offer free counselling and placement for the language course. Your placement will determine which integration course you are accepted onto.

The following [integration course providers](#) are available in Krefeld:

[Bildungsinstitut der Rheinischen Wirtschaft](#)

📍 [Uerdinger Straße 11-13, 47799 Krefeld](#)

☎ [02151/6574246](#)

@ [gossen@brw.de](#)

Specialist advice: Monday and Wednesday, 09:00 - 15:00

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### Caritas

📍 [Am Hauptbahnhof 2, 47798 Krefeld](#)  
☎ [02151/639514](#)

@[bayram@caritas-krefeld.de](mailto:bayram@caritas-krefeld.de)

Specialist counselling: Monday - Thursday by appointment

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### Integral Bildungsforum e.V.

📍 [Oppumer Straße 42, 47799 Krefeld](#)

☎ [02151/565823](#)

@[info@integral-bildungsforum.de](mailto:info@integral-bildungsforum.de)

Specialist advice: Monday - Friday, 09:00 - 14:00

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### LernArt

📍 [Oppumer Straße 81, 47799 Krefeld](#)

☎ [02151/1546951](#)

@[info@lernart-krefeld.de](mailto:info@lernart-krefeld.de)

Specialist counselling and registration by appointment

### Nestor Bildungsinstitut GmbH

📍 [Dießemer Str. 170, 47799 Krefeld](#)

☎ [017621637347](#)



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[@ubergander@nestor-bildung.de](mailto:@ubergander@nestor-bildung.de)

Specialist advice: Monday - Friday 09:00-15:00

[OKS - Oskar Kämmer Schule gGmbH](#)

📍 [Neusser Str. 28, 47798 Krefeld](#)

☎ [02151/6525294](tel:021516525294) / [01773676703](tel:01773676703)

[@kre-bamf](mailto:@kre-bamf) @oks.de

Specialist advice: Monday - Friday 09:00-15:00

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[Krefeld Adult Education Centre](#)

📍 [Von-der-Leyen-Platz 2, 47798 Krefeld](#)

☎ [02151/862684](tel:02151862684) , [02151/862698](tel:02151862698)

[@vhs@krefeld.de](mailto:@vhs@krefeld.de)

Specialist advice: Monday - Thursday, 10:00-12:00

Youth integration courses are offered here:

[Internationaler Bund IB West gGmbH for education and social services, Villa K location](#) 📍  
[Steinstraße 147, 47798 Krefeld](#) ☎ [02151/978707](tel:02151978707) @ [Sprachkurse-krefeld@ib.de](mailto:Sprachkurse-krefeld@ib.de) Specialist  
counselling: Mon, 9:30-13:00 and by appointment

## Support with finding a language course

If you are having problems finding a language course, the following services may be able to help you. The first offer is for teenagers and young adults and the second for adults.

- [Internationaler Bund / Jugendmigrationsdienst](#) for young people aged between 12 and 27.
- [Migration counselling](#) for adults aged 27 and over.

## Types of language course

Depending on your residence status, you can take advantage of different language courses on offer at various levels. These are briefly explained in the following chapters.

You can also search for a language course near you on the [BAMF course site](#).

### General integration courses

The general integration course consists of a language course and an orientation course. In the language course, you will learn German up to language level B1 in 600 teaching units. In the subsequent orientation course, you will gain an insight into the culture, politics and social life in Germany.

#### Target group:

You may attend an integration course

- if you have a residence permit (§§ 24 or 25 Para. 5 AufenthG or § 104c AufenthG),
- if you come from a country of the European Union or are a late repatriate,
- if you have a tolerated stay permit (§ 60 a para. 2 sentence 3 AufenthG),
- if you have a residence permit,

If you successfully pass both examinations, you will receive the ["Integration course" certificate](#).

#### Costs:

- If you receive citizen's allowance or asylum seeker benefits, participation is free of charge for you.
- All other persons must pay for the course themselves. You can ask the institutes how much you have to pay.

The following **institutes** offer integration courses in Krefeld:

- [Bildungsinstitut der Rheinischen Wirtschaft GmbH](#)
- [Caritasverband für die Region Krefeld e.V.](#)
- [Integral Bildungsforum e.V.](#)
- [LernArt](#)
- [Oskar Kämmer School](#)
- [Krefeld Adult Education Centre \(VHS\)](#)

### Integration courses with literacy training

People who do not know the Latin script have an additional hurdle to overcome. They not only have to learn a new language, but also a new script. It is particularly difficult for people who cannot read and write sufficiently in their own language. In the integration courses with alphabetisation, you will learn to read and write as well as speak and understand German.

#### Target group and prices:

The same requirements apply for the integration course with literacy as for the [general integration course](#).

The following **institutes** offer integration courses with literacy in Krefeld:

- [Caritasverband für die Region Krefeld e.V.](#)
- [Krefeld Adult Education Centre \(VHS\)](#)

### **Vocational Language Courses (DeuFöV)**

Vocational Language Courses (DeuFöV) are designed for people who want to further their careers. You will learn specialist terminology and expressions for your industry, and you'll also do an internship during the language course. This helps you increase your possibilities on the job market and helps you get to know working life in Germany.

There are vocational language courses for different levels of language ability.

#### **Target group:**

You are allowed to attend a vocational language course in accordance with § 45a AufenthG:

- if you have already attended an integration course and/or speak German at A1, A2, B1, B2 or C1 level
- if you have a temporary residence permit (Aufenthaltsgestattung) and come from Syria or Eritrea
- if you need a further language qualification and are an EU citizen
- if you are registered as a job-seeker and/or receive support under SGB II (Hartz IV) or SGB III (unemployment benefit)
- if you are looking for a training placement, are already in training, or are currently having your vocational or training qualification recognised

#### **Fees:**

People in insurable employment have to pay €2.07 per lesson. The Federal Employment Agency, the Job Centre or the BAMF assume the costs for all other participants. Please contact one of these three offices if you would like to attend the course:

The [Federal Employment Agency](#) is responsible for

- job-seekers
- unemployed people (who receive SGB II benefits in accordance with the Social Security Statute Book)
- asylum applicants from Syria or Eritrea

The [Job Centre](#) is responsible for

- unemployed people (who receive SGB II benefits)

- refugees with a residence permit (Aufenthaltserlaubnis)

All other participants can submit an [application for a vocational language course](#) directly to the [BAMF](#).

The following **institutes** provide vocational language courses in Krefeld:

- [LernArt](#)
- [Volkshochschule Krefeld \(VHS\)](#)

### Intensive courses

A classic intensive course programme at levels A1 to C2 is focused entirely on your learning and is ideal if you need German for your studies, your day-to-day work or your future plans.

**Target group:** Intensive courses are for people with a university entrance qualification in Germany and who have a specific desire to go to university (refugees, international and immigrant applicants) who want to learn German in a targeted way or to focus on improving their German skills.

You have to pay the **fees** for the intensive course yourself.

### Duplicate learning course

This course is for people who cannot read and write the Latin alphabet. Here you will first learn the Latin alphabet and then the German language. Participants learn German up to language level B1 and take the two tests "Deutsch-Test für Zuwanderer" (DTZ) and "Leben in Deutschland" (LiD) at the end.

#### Target group and prices:

The same requirements apply for the integration course with literacy as for the general integration course.

The following **institutes** offer second language courses in Krefeld:

- [Krefeld Adult Education Centre \(VHS\)](#)
- [LernArt](#)

### Other language learning programmes

If you do not receive a certificate of eligibility for an official language course from the Foreigners' Registration Office, the Employment Agency or the Job Centre, you will have to pay for the course yourself. However, there are also other options for low-cost or free courses:

### Free language courses

## German for mums

The offer is free of charge and takes place on Thursdays, 9 - 11.30 am. Registration at the family centre at ☎ [02151 3635643](tel:021513635643).

[Hubertusstraße Family Centre](#)

📍 [Hubertusstraße 82, 47798 Krefeld](#)

## Reading café for women in the corner (from level A2)

The offer is free of charge and takes place on Mondays, 9 - 11.30 am. Registration in person, ☎ [02151/843840](tel:02151843840) or @ [info@bi-krefeld.de](mailto:info@bi-krefeld.de).

📍 [Südstraße 29, 47798 Krefeld](#)

## Language café for mums

The offer is free of charge and takes place on Fridays, 9 - 10.30 am. Registration at the family centre at ☎ [02151/1520182](tel:021511520182).

[Westwall Family Centre](#)

📍 [Westwall 200, 47798 Krefeld](#)

## Simply German

Over a warm cup of tea, you can talk to other people in German in a cosy atmosphere and improve your German language skills. The programme takes place on Fridays, 16:00 - 17:30.

[Krefeld Media Centre](#)

📍 [Theatre Square 2, 47798 Krefeld](#)

## Multicultural language café for women

The Multikulti language café for women offers a great opportunity to improve your German language skills and exchange ideas with other women! It is organised by Al Baraka Hilfsverein e.V. in Krefeld and will take place every Monday from 18.03.2024 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Contact persons: Mrs Jaroudi ☎ [01781033950](tel:01781033950) and Mr Adouani ☎ [01784307212](tel:01784307212).

📍 [Friedrichsplatz 6, 47798 Krefeld](#)

## Favourable language courses

### German courses for women (A1 - A2)

The courses are offered as a family education programme with free childcare (from 6 months). Participants can apply to receive a discount for the course or attend free of charge.

Dates: Monday and Wednesday, 9 - 11.30 am or Tuesday and Thursday, 9 - 11.30 am.

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[Citizens' initiative around St Joseph's](#)

📍 [Corneliusstrasse 43, 47798 Krefeld](#)

## VHS courses

The VHS offers courses from level A1 to C1 for self-payers, which can also be reduced under certain conditions (up to 50% for students, benefit recipients and the like). The courses usually take place in the evenings from around 6 p.m. Intensive courses are also offered in the mornings during the summer holidays. The VHS also offers German exams and exam preparation courses.

Contact:

[Adult Education Centre Krefeld/Neukirchen-Vluyn](#)

📍 [Von-der-Leyen-Platz 2, 47798 Krefeld](#)

☎ [02151/862664](tel:02151/862664)

@[vhs@krefeld.de](mailto:vhs@krefeld.de)

## Online learning

If you cannot attend a free German course because your asylum application has been rejected and you have a tolerated stay, there are still ways to learn German online.

You can attend a language course, but you would have to pay for the course yourself or you can learn German on your own by using free online services, apps and learning games.

There are many different options that can help you improve your German, even if you are unable to attend a course. We have summarised these offers here:

## Alphabetisation

### [ABC course with online tutor](#)

Free literacy course with an online tutor: In this course you will learn to read and write with videos, audios, pictures and suitable tasks in 12 lessons. You will learn German at the same time. An online tutor will help you by answering your questions and correcting tasks. The portal can be set to 19 different languages.

### [ABC course](#)

Free literacy course: In this course you learn to read and write with videos, audios, pictures and exercises. You learn German at the same time. The site can be set to 9 different languages.

### [Serlo ABC](#)

You can learn the Latin alphabet with the free Serlo ABC app. You learn German at the same time.

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## **[Playlist "Learn to write German and grammar - with pictures"](#)**

With these YouTube videos you can learn the alphabet and also the pronunciation of German. You will also learn to read and write in German.

### **Language courses by level**

#### **[First steps in the German language](#) (level A1)**

This small book offers a first aid in the German language with the alphabet, important words, grammar and examples of everyday life. Translation aids are available in English.

#### **[Vocabulary app "City of Words"](#) (level A1-A2)**

This video game helps you learn your first words in German with audio, pictures and sentences. You can also meet other players and play with or against each other in the "City of Words". The app can be set to 8 different languages.

#### **[Miniseries "First Ways in Germany"](#) (level A1-A2)**

With this free mini-series, you can experience everyday situations with the character Nevin (for example on the bus or at the doctor's). You watch short videos and then complete exercises.

#### **[Vocabulary trainer](#) (level A1-A2)**

With this free vocabulary trainer, you can practise vocabulary, phrases and sentences for various situations. There are over 50 source languages.

#### **Nico's Way" language course([level A1](#), [level A2](#), [level B1](#))**

In this free course, you will learn German from A1 to B1 level in 18 chapters. Each chapter begins with a short video - structured in the style of a telenovela - which you use to complete exercises and learn German step by step with Nico, the protagonist of the telenovela. Each chapter is accompanied by explanations, lists of words and the manuscript for the video. The site is available in 9 different languages.

#### **[Language course with tutor](#) (level A1-B1)**

In this free course, you will learn German from A1 to B1 level with videos, audios, pictures and exercises in 12 lessons. In the learning portal you will find a vocabulary trainer and phrase trainer for each lesson so that you can practise the new words. You will also be supported by an online tutor who will answer your questions or correct texts. The portal is available in 19 different languages.

#### **[German forum and online community](#) (level A1-C2)**

If you would like to join a WhatsApp learning group, chat with learners from all over the world in German or find a learning partner, you will find what you are looking for in the online community on the Goethe-Institut website. You will also find various German exercises at all levels.

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## **[Learn German on the Deutsche Welle website](#) (levels A1-C2)**

On the Deutsche Welle website you will find a wide range of offers for learning German. You can listen to news that is spoken more slowly for learners, you can find out how Germans live in the Deutschlandlabor, you can meet other learners in the online community, watch videos on various topics, practise your listening comprehension, read up on grammar questions and, above all, do lots of exercises. The site is available in 30 languages, including English, Arabic, Bosnian, Greek, Polish and many more.

## **[Telenovela "Jojo sucht das Glück"](#) (level B1-B2)**

In this telenovela, you can find out more about the life of Jojo, a Brazilian woman who has recently arrived in Germany. Each episode of "Jojo sucht das Glück" is accompanied by interactive exercises and vocabulary aids to help you learn German.

## **[German learners' blog "All about the German language"](#) (level C1, level B2-C2)**

On this page you will find various exercises for listening comprehension, vocabulary or reading comprehension. You can learn the most beautiful German words, idioms or colloquial expressions.

## **German at work**

### **[German in the workplace](#)**

On this page you will find a wide range of exercises at levels A1 to C1 relating to everyday working life in Germany. Get to know different professions and practise professional situations such as making a telephone call, writing a business letter or writing a job application. You will also find numerous tasks for different professional fields: social and technical professions, professions in the trades, in the office, in the service sector or in culture. You can practise typical language actions and communication situations for your profession and learn the vocabulary that is important for you.

### **[Vocabulary for the job](#)**

The Lunes app accompanies you at school, in training and at work. The app supports you with technical terms and job-specific vocabulary. You will find numerous vocabulary items with pictures and a supplementary read-aloud function in various modules. Various types of exercises (multiple choice, practising articles or writing whole words) encourage you to learn and remember the vocabulary and make it fun at the same time.

### **[Vocabulary for the job](#)**

On this page you will find vocabulary lists to learn the most important terms in your everyday working life. You can choose from various professions such as geriatric nurse, electronics technician, salesperson, gardener, machine and plant operator, carpenter and many more. You can visit the site in English, Arabic, Farsi, Russian and Turkish.



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## **[German for the job - it's easy!](#)**

This page offers learning units in German for cooks, carers and car mechatronics technicians. The videos, worksheets and online exercises contain typical situations in the professions and help you learn specialised vocabulary and communicate with colleagues or customers. They also help with filling out forms or writing reports.

## **[German on the job](#) - level B1**

With this free course, you can practise German for your job. You can choose from the following professional fields: Catering, plant engineering, building cleaning, nursing, retail. There are seven learning units with videos and subsequent tasks for each professional field, which you can use to learn vocabulary, idioms and typical phrases used in the respective industry.

## **[German for the workplace](#) - level A2-B2**

In this free course, you will learn German for the workplace at B2 level in 20 lessons with videos, audios, pictures and suitable tasks. You will be supported by an online tutor who will answer your questions and correct texts.

## **[German for construction workers](#)**

The platform is particularly suitable for people who already work in construction or want to work there and understand little or no German. In a total of 20 lessons, you will be linguistically prepared for working on construction sites. Not only will you learn about working on construction sites, but you will also learn a lot about health and safety on construction sites and how to communicate in your profession. Each lesson consists of a video followed by vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation exercises.

## **[App: "One day of German - in care"](#)**

With this free app, learners of German from level B1 train vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation for medical and nursing professions in a fun way. They also consolidate communicative key points from conversational situations with patients, colleagues and superiors.

## **Grammar**

### **[My German book](#)**

This page provides an overview of German grammar. It can be used both as a reference book for German grammar and for learning new grammatical structures.

### **[LanguageCultureCommunication](#)**

On this page you will find simple and understandable explanations of various grammatical phenomena of the German language.

## **[Grammar exercises "Deutsch aber Hallo"](#) - Level A1-C1**

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Free scripts with exercises for all levels.

## **[Grammar exercises from Schubert-Verlag - level A1-C1](#)**

On this free site you will find exercises on various grammar topics.

## **Offers for children**

### **[German with Socke](#)**

Deutsch mit Socke is a film series that helps children between the ages of 5 and 10 take their first steps in the German language. In the individual short videos, Esther (a young woman) talks to Socke (a red sock) about all sorts of things - just like in real life. Socke is red, imaginative, a bit cheeky and full of energy. This leads to many situations in which Esther and Socke speak and act together in German. Children can easily identify with Socke. This is also the aim of this material: the children - like Socke - should be able to have their say and act in the foreign language. There are activities and a student booklet to go with the videos.

### **[The bee saviours](#)**

With this free app, children from the age of three can learn German through play. Without any previous knowledge of the language, they leave the shelter of the forest together with squirrel and bear and set off on an exciting journey to save the sick bees. On the way in the snow-covered mountains, where the lynx, the guardian of the medicinal plant, lives, they meet animals that help them and teach them more than 900 German vocabulary words. "Die Bienenretter" can be played on two different difficulty levels and offers up to six hours of fun.

### **[Vocabulary app for children](#)**

With the "phase6 hallo Deutsch" app, school-age children (and teenagers too) learn German in a fun way while building up a sound basic vocabulary of over 1,300 important words and phrases. Each word is first introduced and then practised with various exercises. Illustrations and learning games help with this.

### **[The programme with the elephant](#)**

The little blue elephant and his friends present stories to discover, marvel at and laugh along with, for children aged between 3 and 6. Each programme lasts around 25 minutes and is also very suitable for language development.

### **[Children's channel WDR Maus](#)**

The site with the mouse offers knowledge programmes - explaining, for example, how an object is made or how it works - as well as audio stories, games and craft tips. A "Sendung mit der Maus" programme presents complex topics in an entertaining and understandable way for children between the ages of 6 and 9 and lasts around 30 minutes. It is also suitable for language development for children with previous knowledge.

### **[Lingo for kids](#)**

With Lingo, children aged 8 to 12 can practise German and learn new things. There are texts to read and listen to, experiments and craft tips.

## Offers of the media library

The [Krefeld media centre](#) is a public library where you can find

- books
- audio books
- music CDs
- games
- console games
- films
- German magazines
- language course books with audio CDs and language learning software

can be borrowed and taken away. It is also possible to study and read in the media centre.

You may keep all media for a certain period of time. When you borrow media, you will receive a note with the dates when you must return the media. Please return the media on time so that you do not have to pay any additional fees.

You can use the digital services in the media centre or from home:

- [E-books](#)
- [e-audios](#)
- [International newspapers and magazines](#)
- [German and international films](#)
- [learning materials](#)

The media centre has free WIFI and Internet PCs.

For a fee, you can also print and copy something at the media centre.

To register at the Mediothek Krefeld, you will need your identity card or passport with a valid registration certificate

Refugees can register with

- their proof of arrival
- their residence permit or
- their toleration

can register. They pay a lower price.

Minors can use the media centre free of charge. However, children and young people under the age of 16 need the signature of a parent or guardian.

Further information on the opening hours and services of the Krefeld media centre can be found [here](#).

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**Contact:**

📍 [Theaterplatz 2, 47798 Krefeld](#)

☎ [02151/862753](tel:02151862753)

@ [mediothek@krefeld.de](mailto:mediothek@krefeld.de)

## Interpreting and translating

### Google translator for Chrome

You can read all web pages translated into one of more than 100 languages. Below are the steps you need to follow to use the **Chrome** browser for this.

1. open **Chrome** on your Windows computer.
2. select the three dots for **More** in the top right corner and then select **Settings** from the list
3. select **Languages** on the left-hand side.
4. go to the options for "Google Translator" and activate the option **Use Google Translator** (drag the small button to the right).
5. under "Translate to this language", select your preferred language from the list
6. under "Automatically translate these languages", German must be listed. If German is not yet listed, click on **Add languages** and select German from the list.
7. restart **Chrome** to apply the changes.

Now you can read all websites in your desired language and even fill out and submit the online forms of the city of Krefeld in your desired language.

### Interpreters

You need officially trained interpreters for important appointments involving legal and statutory issues or health matters. This may be the case for an important appointment at the immigration office or with a doctor.

Volunteer interpreters are people who translate between two or more languages free of charge. They help you to understand the conversation. They do not charge any money.

Do interpreters offer their services for a fee? Then ask whether they are qualified. Also consider in advance whether the price is acceptable to you.

Please also note that interpreters do not offer advice or representation in legal matters.

You can enquire about interpreters for your language here:

- [IHK Krefeld](#)
- [Interpreter and translator database](#)

### Translation of documents and deeds

Documents and deeds are very important when you arrive in Germany. You need a translation of your documents when you register at the Citizen Centre (Bürgeramt), when you apply to university and in lots of other situations.

You can search for a translator for your language [here](#). If you need to translate multiple documents, it's worth asking different translators about their prices beforehand.

## Voluntary support

At first you will need someone to translate for you when visiting authorities like the Social Welfare Office and the Education Office, as well as attending parents' evenings and at nursery.

The City of Krefeld's Municipal Integration Centre can help you with the [language guide pool](#). A language guide is a volunteer who will accompany you at an appointment to translate for you. If you want that, please ask the place where you have the appointment to organise a companion for you through the Municipal Integration Centre.

Note: A language guide can only accompany you to appointments at the Immigration Office if no legal issues are discussed.

## Aids to communication

If you don't speak German, it can be difficult to communicate with others. There are free resources that can help you if you have difficulties with the German language.

- [Refugee Phrasebook](#): multilingual, free dictionary on various topics. It is a multilingual dictionary for refugees with helpful words and phrases. It is available in many languages.

You can also use free web services and apps that translate for you:

- [Google Translate](#) (→ [Android](#) and [IOS](#))
- [DeepL](#) (works with artificial intelligence; is available in many languages)
- [Voice Translator](#) (Android), [Voice Translator pro Speech](#) (IOS)
- [Oroboo Angel](#) (mediation of language partners, free video/audio translations, 5-minute chat with extension option)
- If you have to go to the doctor, this [picture dictionary](#) can help. You can order the very affordable and helpful **point it** picture dictionary for initial communication directly [here](#).