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Learn German

This chapter is about learning German.

Language schools and language course providers

If you have any questions about learning German, you can contact the [Clearing und Koordinierungsstelle Sprache beim Netzwerk Lippe, die CuK](#), for all questions about learning German. The CuK is the most important contact point in the district of Lippe for everything to do with learning German.

The following language course providers offer German courses (language schools) in the district of Lippe:

awb e. V. (Arbeit-Werkstatt-Bildung e. V.)

📍 [Kiliansweg 7, 32108 Bad Salzuflen](#)

Dialog Consulting Detmold

📍 [Lange Straße 78, 32756 Detmold](#)

Fortbildungsakademie der Wirtschaft (faw) gGmbH Bielefeld

Branch office Detmold

📍 [Bielefelder Straße 5, 32756 Detmold](#)

Grone Bildungszentren NRW GmbH Detmold

📍 [Sprottauer Straße 1-3, 32756 Detmold](#)

Grone Bildungszentren NRW GmbH Bad Salzuflen

📍 [Gröchteweg 26, 32105 Bad Salzuflen](#)

IBS - Institut für Bildung & Sprache

📍 [Breite Straße 5, 32657 Lemgo](#)

inlingua Sprachcenter Detmold

📍 [Bruchstraße 39, 32756 Detmold](#)

VHS Detmold-Lemgo AöRGeschäftsstelle Detmold:

📍 [Krumme Straße 20, 32756 Detmold](#)

Office Lemgo:

📍 [Haus Wippermann, Kramerstr. 5, 32657 Lemgo](#)

VHS Lippe-Ost

📍 [Parkallee 7, 32816 Schieder-Schwalenberg](#)

VHS Lippe-West

📍 [Lange Straße 124, 32791 Lage](#)

Levels of language ability

Depending on how much German you have already learnt, you will be able to speak and write German at a certain level. There are six levels: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2. As a beginner, you start with A1. You can speak your mother tongue at the level C2.

The six levels mean in detail:

A1: Beginner and beginner

- You can understand and use simple words and sentences.
- You can introduce yourself and others.
- You can ask personal questions.
- You can answer questions.
- Someone is speaking slowly and clearly. You can have a conversation with them.

A2: Basic knowledge

You can understand full sentences and frequently used words.

You can express yourself in simple, everyday situations.

You can describe where you come from, what kind of education you have and your surroundings.

B1: Advanced language use

You can understand a lot.

You can speak about topics you are familiar with and your personal interests.

You can talk about experiences and events, dreams, hopes and goals.

You can provide brief reasons or explanations for your plans and opinions.

B2: Independent use of language

You can understand the most important parts of complex texts on both specific and abstract topics.

You can even understand expert discussions in topics you know well.

You can express yourself orally in a spontaneous and fluent manner.

You can justify a point of view on a current issue with advantages and disadvantages.

C1: Expert language skills

You can understand much of longer, complex texts.

You can also grasp implicit meaning in the text.

You can articulate your opinion on complex topics clearly, extensively and in a well-structured way.

C2: (Approaching) native speaker proficiency

You can understand practically everything you read or hear without effort.

You can summarise information from a variety of written and oral sources.

You can reproduce reasoning and explanations in a cohesive way.

You can express yourself in a spontaneous, very fluid, precise and nuanced manner.

German courses with BAMF certificate

You can obtain a certificate in the German language if you attend a German course that concludes with a certificate exam.

If you pass the exam, the certificate will state the level at which you can speak, write and read German, for example A2, B1 or B2.

On the page "[Language schools and language course providers](#)" you will find the language schools and language course providers in the district of Lippe that offer German courses with a certificate examination.

You can also use the **language course finder** at Netzwerk Lippe (NWL) to see where the nearest language course is taking place in your region. Please use this [link](#).

It is also possible to **learn German independently and without a language course** and then take an exam.

In this case, you will have to organise the exam yourself.

There are also courses in the district of Lippe without an exam and therefore without a certificate.

You can find more information on the page "[Learning German without a certificate](#)".

Initial Orientation Courses

Initial orientation courses are not currently offered in the district of Lippe.

For a specific group of people

The German courses for initial language orientation are for language beginners. In these courses, you will learn basic German. You will find out about life in Germany. The aim of the course is to make it easier for you to live in Germany. You will learn to handle everyday issues. A course consists of 300 units of 45 minutes each. The course covers various subjects. You will learn about 'Health/Medical care', 'Work', 'Kindergarten/School', 'Housing', 'Local Orientation / Transport / Mobility'. Spoken communication is the main focus: Participants should learn as quickly as possible how to find their way around in everyday life. The course also teaches German values.

Initial orientation courses are free of charge.

Initial orientation courses are not currently offered in the district of Lippe. If you would like to attend a German course, please contact the [Clearing und Koordinierungsstelle Sprache beim Netzwerk Lippe, die CuK](#). They will help you to find a suitable course.

Literacy courses

If you cannot read and write or cannot read and write well, you have the option of attending a literacy course. In this course you will learn to read, write and speak German.

If you

- want to learn to read and write for the first time ever,
- can already read and write a little, but not yet to a sufficient degree,
- want to speak and understand German better at the same time and
- want to learn how to navigate everyday life in Germany without fear,

a literacy course could be the right thing for you.

As well as learning how to read and write, you will learn how to help yourself and each other to get ahead and how to actively participate in social life.

For most people, attending an integration course is free of charge. You have to apply for this.

Do you need support with the application? Then contact the [Clearing und Koordinierungsstelle Sprache beim Netzwerk Lippe, die CuK](#). They will also help you choose a language school.

General integration courses

You will learn the German language in a general integration course.

You will learn more than just the basics. At the end you will be able to speak German at B1 level.

You will also learn about the culture, politics and social customs in Germany.

The integration course concludes with the examinations "Deutschtest für Zuwanderer" (DTZ) and "Living in Germany" (LiD) .

For most people, attending an integration course is free of charge. You have to apply for this.

For the application, the search for an integration course and all other questions, the [Clearing und Koordinierungsstelle Sprache beim Netzwerk Lippe, die CuK](#).

You can also find out for yourself where the next integration course starts in your region and whether there are still places available. To do this, use the [BAMF Navigator](#).

Professional language courses

In a professional language course, you will learn German that is more closely related to your profession. You can improve your vocabulary and learn words that are used in the workplace.

A **professional language course** is particularly suitable for you if you:

- are already working,
- are doing an apprenticeship or
- want to start working soon.

There are various vocational language courses that require different levels of German. Each of these courses concludes with a certificate examination.

- For example, if you want to do a "B2 vocational language course", you need a B1 certificate in German.
- You can attend a "C1 vocational language course" if you already have a B2 certificate in German.

The [Clearing und Koordinierungsstelle Sprache beim Netzwerk Lippe, die CuK](#), will support you if you would like to attend a vocational language course.

Learn German without a certificate

In addition to courses in language schools, there are other ways to learn German. However, there is usually no certificate for this.

To learn German without a language school and without a certificate, there are, for example, the following options:

Language cafés

In so-called language cafés (or Sprachtreffs), 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 any previous knowledge or not. Everyone sits together in small groups and just talks.

German courses from Deutschen Roten Kreuz (DRK)

The German Red Cross (DRK) offers regular German courses for beginners with and without childcare at Detmold and Lemgo. You can find offers for example [hier](#).

Libraries

In 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. You can search for a public library near you on the German Library Statistics website. Use is either free or very cheap.

Learn German online

There are also many ways to learn German online. You can find out more on the page "[Online Deutsch lernen](#)".

Learn German through activities

You can also improve your German language skills by spending a lot of time with German-speaking people. There are many opportunities for this. For example, you can get involved in voluntary work or join a club - whether sport, fire brigade or music, the choice is huge.

You can find more offers on the website of the [CuK](#).

Learn German online

You can also 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 alongside a German course. You can find more information about the language levels (A1-C2) [here](#).

Here you will find a small selection of apps for learning German:

[VHS learning portal](#)

Free German courses. You can also learn to write, read and do maths. There are also writing and reading courses for care assistants, care specialists, professional drivers, warehouse logistics, hotels and restaurants. There is also help to prepare for the secondary school leaving certificate in German, maths and English.

You can also prepare here for the final test for the orientation course (for the "**Living in Germany**" test or the "**Naturalisation test**"). And much more!

[Serlo ABC](#)

A **free** alphabetisation app for self-study or as a supplement to a language course. Serlo ABC is aimed specifically at teenage and young adult refugees aged 15-30 who are learning on their own. The app is approved as a textbook for integration courses.

[Basic language course from Deutsche Welle](#)

With the mobile courses from Deutsche Welle, you can learn German easily and **free of charge**. Whether for beginners, advanced learners or professionals: here you will find German courses and offers for learning German with news or music from level A1 to C1.

[Lunes app](#)

The **free** Wokabel app helps you at school, in training and at work. The app has lots of information about words from different professions. There is a picture for each 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.

[My German book](#)

Extensive **free** offer for learning the German language. The website is aimed at learners and teachers, A1-B2.

[Göthe Institute](#)

We have developed lots of **free** media for you to practise your German: from apps with learning materials, videos, podcasts and games to social media and community offerings. No matter how well you already speak German and why you want to improve: The main thing is to get started - and have fun doing it.

[German University Online \(DUO\)](#)

This app is **not free** and contains language learning programmes for A1 to C2. With DUO you can start learning German and learn what you need to know to study at a university in Germany.

You can find a placement test for the German language here:

[Online language placement test](#)

Language placement test for refugees and for language categorisation for full-time employees and volunteers. Please note, it is **not free of charge**.

💡 The language schools in your municipality also organise placement tests. Ask there. You can find out which language schools there are in the district of Lippe [here](#).

Learning German at the workplace

You can also learn German at work.

The following options are available:

1. **Job-related vocational language courses (Job-BSK), which are subsidised by the BAMF**, aim to help you successfully enter the workplace even if your German language skills are still poor. These courses have a short duration (100-150 teaching units), are flexible and are well suited to the needs and requirements of employees and companies. In the courses, participants learn how to communicate better in the workplace. Important technical terms are also reinforced and there is learning counselling with personal language coaching.

Who can take part in Job-BSK?

- Anyone who has a language level of at least **A2 and**

- are already in employment **or**
- have the prospect of a job with a commitment from an employer **or**
- are taking part in a job preparation programme with an employer or an institution and need language support

How much does it cost to take part in a Job-BSK?

The Job-BSK are supported by the BAMF and are generally free of charge for participants. If someone earns more than 20,000 euros a year, they have to pay a contribution of 2.56 euros per lesson. This contribution can also be paid by the employer.

Further information, which is also helpful for employers, can be found on the [BAMF website](#).

Enclosed is also a [job-BSK flyer](#) for employers.


2. language coaching at the workplace

[AWO Kreisverband Bielefeld e.V.](#) offers language support in the workplace and a free communicative needs assessment with advice on German language support for employers.

If you are interested, please contact:


Mrs Korol

[@a.korol@awo-bielefeld.de](mailto:a.korol@awo-bielefeld.de)

 [0162/1084061](tel:0162/1084061)

or **Mrs Stallbaum**

[@s.stallbaum@awo-bielefeld.de](mailto:s.stallbaum@awo-bielefeld.de)

 [0162/1388647](tel:0162/1388647)

Test "Living in Germany" / Naturalisation test

The "Living in Germany" test (**LiD**) takes place at the end of an **orientation course**.

The test **LiD** has the same questions and the same examination procedure as the **naturalisation test**, but they are not equivalent. The LiD offers the opportunity to apply for the integration course certificate. This option is not available for the naturalisation test. You can use the LiD for naturalisation as well as for settlement permits. It is accepted by all authorities.

Both tests have 310 questions, including 300 general questions and 10 questions about the federal state in which you live. One test questionnaire has 33 questions that must be answered in 60 minutes.

 **The test LiD is passed if at least 15 questions out of 33 are answered correctly.**

 **The naturalisation test is passed if at least 17 questions out of 33 are answered correctly.**

How can I prepare for the "Living in Germany" test or the naturalisation test?

You can prepare for the **"Life in Germany" test** or the **naturalisation test** online in the test centre of the [BAMF](#)s test centre and complete the questions interactively. After completing each question, you will be shown the correct answer.

You can also complete a sample questionnaire as a test. Once you have answered all the questions, you will be shown which questions you have answered correctly. At the end you can view the correct answers with brief background information.

[Interactive questionnaire naturalisation test](#)

[Interactive sample questionnaire for the naturalisation test](#)

[Information sheet on the "Living in Germany" test](#)

[Interactive questionnaire for the "Living in Germany" test](#)

[Interactive sample questionnaire for the "Living in Germany" test](#)

[Complete questionnaire for the "Living in Germany" test and the "Naturalisation test"](#)

VHS - Learning portal

You can prepare for the final test of the orientation course here **free of charge** : for the **"Living in Germany" test** or for the **"Naturalisation test"** .

Voluntary translation (become a language mediator)

If you speak many languages and would like to volunteer, you can work as a language mediator.

As a language mediator, you help people who speak little or no German. You accompany these people to appointments and translate for them.


If you are interested in working as a language mediator, you can contact the Sprachmittlerpool of the Municipal Integration Centre of the District of Lippe (KI) or the German Red Cross (DRK). You will find the contact details below.

An expense allowance is paid for volunteer work as a language mediator. You will also be paid travel expenses. Before you are deployed as a language mediator, you will be trained and prepared.

If you are interested, please get in touch with us!

Sprachmittlerpool of the KI (Municipal Integration Centre):

Frau Nicola Lohmann

 [05231/621478](tel:05231621478)

[@n.lohmann2@kreis-lippe.de](mailto:n.lohmann2@kreis-lippe.de)

There are currently already a large number of language mediators in some languages at Sprachmittlerpool of the KI. At the moment we are urgently looking for people who speak Bulgarian, Romanian or French.

Sprachmittlerpool of the DRK:

Frau Anita Weber

☎ [05231/921443](tel:05231921443)

@ a.weber@drk-lippe.de