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# Language

## Language basics

In order to find a job in Germany and generally get by, you need to learn German. Here you will find opportunities and contact points for appropriate language courses. There are various ways to learn German. Your residence status has an influence on which option you can choose.

It is important to learn German if you want to live here. There are many organisations in Rostock that offer language courses. Here you can find out about suitable courses and also take a placement test. Further information can be found on the website of the Bamf - Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. (Bamf - Bundesamt für Migration und Flüchtlinge).

 [Bamf NAVI](#)

## Language level and certificates

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

### A1: Beginner

You can understand and use simple words and sentences.

You can introduce yourself and others.

You can ask questions about yourself.

You can answer questions.

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

### A2: Basic knowledge

You can understand sentences and frequently used words.

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

### B1: Advanced use of language

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

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

### B2: Independent use of language

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

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

### C1: Specialised language skills

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

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

### C2: (Near) native speaker level

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

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

## Language courses

There are many language course providers in Rostock. Here you can learn German in many different courses. There are also language courses for people who cannot read or write. Some courses only take place in the mornings or afternoons. If you have a permit from the Federal Office for Migration (Bundesamt für Migration) or the Migration Office in Rostock, you can attend a German course free of charge. You can get advice from the language course providers and after a placement test they will decide which course is best for you.

To find a suitable language course, you can search for a course on the Bamf Navi online platform.

 [Bamf Navi](#)

### Initial orientation courses

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

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

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

💡 Contact a [migration advice centre](#) (Migrationsberatungsstelle) or your case worker at the [Office for Social Affairs and Participation](#) (Amt für Soziales und Teilhabe). They will help you to find a suitable course.

### Integration courses

Do you want to learn the German language? Then the integration courses will help you. In this course you will learn German. You will learn more than just the basics. At the end of the course you will be able to speak German at level B1. You will also learn about the culture, politics and social customs in Germany. If you are still a minor, you can take part in a special course for young people. The integration courses are free of charge for refugees and other target groups who receive social benefits.

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

The [Hanse Jobcenter](#), the [Office for Social Affairs and Participation](#) or the [Migration Office Rostock \(Foreigners' Registration Office\)](#) can oblige you to take part in an integration course. You have not been obliged? But you would like to take part in a course? Then you can apply for an integration course at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). Do you need help with the application? Then contact your local [Migrationsberatung](#). They will also help you choose an integration course provider.

You can find integration courses in Rostock via the [BAMF-NAFI](#)

### **Vocational language courses (DeuFöV)**

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

At the end of the course you will be able to speak German at level C1. Each of these courses concludes with a certificate examination. In addition to the basic courses, there are various specialised courses with different focuses.

To attend a job-related German course, you need an authorisation or commitment. You can obtain this either from the Hanse Job Centre or the Employment Agency or by applying to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF).

💡 The prerequisite for participation is a language level of at least B1.

[Hanse Jobcenter](#)

[Agentur für Arbeit Rostock](#)

### **Voluntary language courses**

You can practise German outside of the German courses. There are language courses for everyone. The language courses are often run by volunteers. These are usually people whose mother tongue is German. Sometimes they are teachers who no longer work. Anyone can come to these groups, regardless of their residence status. Conversations in a relaxed atmosphere are a good way to learn German and get to know people.

The [Intercultural Language Cafe](#) and the [Newcomer Cafe](#) offer language courses on a voluntary basis


In the district and meeting centres (SBZ) there are groups that meet and speak German. Sometimes people just meet for a coffee and a chat. The groups are open to everyone. Find out more at the SBZ in your neighbourhood.


[Stadtteil- und Begegnungszentren](#)


There are also [intercultural centres](#) in the city. People with and without immigration experience meet here and can practise the German language.


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


You can learn German on your smartphone or computer (also free of charge). Take advantage of the great offers to learn German quickly and make good use of the waiting time for a language course. These offers can also be useful during a language course. You can find more information about the language levels (A1-C2) [here](#).


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


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


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

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

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

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

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

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

## Online study

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

 [Website Kiron](#)

## Learn German without a course

### Language cafés

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

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## Language cafés in Rostock:

[Interkulturelles Sprachcafé](#)

[Newcomer-Café](#)

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## Rostock City Library

In the [Stadtbibliothek Rostock](#) you will find many dictionaries and learning materials for learning German. You can also study there in peace and quiet and use the WLAN. Use is either free or very cheap.

There is an online catalogue on the city library's website. Here you can also search for books, CDs and e-books.

 [Stadtbibliothek Rostock](#)