



Learn German with Mueen

Life in Germany

A1 → A2 → B1

From complete beginner to confident intermediate — step by step

A1 Beginner		A2 Elementary		B1 Intermediate	
■ Apps	■ Skills	■ Timeline	■ Method	■ Apps	■ Skills
Fluenz Anki iTalki Language Reactor		Grammar Vocabulary Reading Writing Speaking		A1: 3 mo A2: 3 mo B1: 6 mo	
				Self-study + AI tools + Native Tutors	

Created by Mueen · Learn German with Mueen – Life in Germany · A self-motivated learner's guide to reaching B1 using the best modern tools.

1. WHY THIS ROADMAP?

Learning German can feel overwhelming — grammar cases, compound words, and three genders! But with the right system it becomes surprisingly manageable. This roadmap breaks the journey from absolute zero to B1 (the gateway level for citizenship, university, and professional life in Germany and Austria) into clear, tool-supported stages.

The plan is built around **five core skills** — Grammar, Vocabulary, Reading, Writing, and Speaking — each matched to a best-in-class tool. You will combine these daily so that skills reinforce one another.

SKILL	PRIMARY TOOL	SECONDARY
■ Grammar	Fluenz	YouTube (Easy German)
■ Vocabulary	Anki (SRS)	Fluenz word lists
■ Reading	Deutsch Perfekt	graded readers, news-in-slow
✍️ Writing	ChatGPT / AI	journaling, pen pals
■ Speaking	iTalki tutors	language exchange apps

2. GRAMMAR — FLUENZ

What is Fluenz?

Fluenz is a premium desktop/laptop software designed by linguist Sonia Gil. Unlike Duolingo's gamified approach, Fluenz prioritises deep grammatical understanding. Each session opens with a video explanation by Sonia herself, who walks you through the rule in plain English before you practise it. This makes it ideal for adult learners who want to *understand why* German works the way it does — not just memorise phrases.

Download Fluenz from: getintopc.com

What Fluenz covers

- **der/die/das:** Mastering the three articles — the #1 stumbling block
- **Cases:** Nominative, Accusative, Dative, Genitive explained simply
- **Verb endings:** Present, past (Perfekt & Präteritum), future tenses
- **Word order:** V2 rule, subordinate clauses, separable verbs
- **Prepositions:** Which case each preposition triggers — with drills

■ **PRO TIP: How to use Fluenz:** Do not skip the exercises! Remember to write the grammar topics

3. VOCABULARY — ANKI + SPACED REPETITION

What is Anki?

Anki is a free, open-source flashcard app that uses **Spaced Repetition System (SRS)** — arguably the most scientifically proven method for long-term memorisation. It is available on Windows, Mac, Linux, Android, and iPhone (free on all platforms except iOS which has a one-time fee).

The Science: How Spaced Repetition Works

The human brain follows the **Forgetting Curve** (Ebbinghaus, 1885): without review, you forget ~70 % of new information within 24 hours. Anki fights this by showing you a card just before you are about to forget it. Each time you successfully recall a word, the next review interval doubles (e.g. 1 day to 2 days to 4 to 10 to 30 to 90 days). This means you spend your limited study time only on words that need attention, not ones you already know well.

Review Day	1	2	4	10	30	90
Interval	1d	2d	4d	10d	30d	90d

Interval growth for a word rated 'Good' every time

Rating buttons explained

Button	Meaning	Next interval
Again	Complete blank	Back to start (10 min)
Hard	Remembered with effort	Interval x 1.2
Good	Recalled comfortably	Interval x 2.5
Easy	Instant recall	Interval x 4+

Recommended Anki Decks (free download)

- **German Top 5000 Words** — ankiweb.net — frequency-based vocabulary
- **A1 Goethe Vocabulary** — Goethe-certified A1 word list, 700 cards
- **A2/B1 Exam Vocabulary** — Covers Goethe and OeSD exam word lists
- **German Grammar Rules** — Grammar rules as cloze-deletion cards

Search AnkiWeb (ankiweb.net/shared/decks/german) for all decks. Download the .apkg file and double-click to import into Anki.

DAILY ANKI ROUTINE

New cards: 15–20 per day. Reviews: complete every single day (even just 5 minutes). Missing one day causes a review avalanche the next day. After 3 months you will have 1,000+ words firmly in long-term memory with only 10–15 min/day of maintenance.

4. READING — DEUTSCH PERFEKT MAGAZINE

What is Deutsch Perfekt?

Deutsch Perfekt is a German monthly magazine published specifically for learners of German at levels A2–C1. Each issue contains real articles about German culture, current events, travel, and lifestyle — written in graded language with difficult words explained in the margin. A companion audio CD/app lets you listen while you read.

Articles graded by level (A2, B1, B2) — you always find something at your level

Glossary boxes within the text — no constant dictionary look-ups needed

Grammar tips integrated into real-world contexts

Cultural insights about Germany, Austria, and Switzerland

Audio recordings of all articles available via the Deutsch Perfekt app

Available as print subscription or digital app (deutschperfekt.com)

How to use it for maximum benefit

Step 1: First pass	Read the whole article ignoring unknown words. Try to grasp the main idea.
Step 2: Second pass	Read again slowly. Circle every word you do not know.
Step 3: Dictionary	Look up circled words — add the best 5–10 to your Anki deck.
Step 4: Audio	Listen to the audio recording while reading simultaneously.
Step 5: Shadow	Play the audio and speak aloud along with it — trains pronunciation.

Additional free reading resources

- [dw.com/de/deutsch-lernen](https://www.dw.com/de/deutsch-lernen) — Deutsche Welle free German courses and news
- [nachrichtenleicht.de](https://www.nachrichtenleicht.de) — Weekly news in simple German (B1 level)
- [einfachdeutsch.com](https://www.einfachdeutsch.com) — Simplified German texts A1–B1
- **Graded readers** — Lesen and Ueben series (Klett publishers) for A1–B1

5. WRITING — AI-POWERED PRACTICE

Why AI is a game-changer for writing

Traditional learners spent months waiting for a teacher to correct their essays. Today, AI tools like ChatGPT give you instant, sentence-by-sentence feedback available 24/7, at zero cost. Used correctly, this is the fastest way to internalise German grammar through active production.

The Writing Practice System

1

Pick a topic

Ask ChatGPT: 'Give me 10 interesting A1/A2 essay topics in German.' Save the list.

2	Write freely Write 80–150 words in German on the topic. Do NOT use Google Translate. Make mistakes — that is OK.
3	Submit to AI Paste your text with the prompt: 'Correct my German text sentence by sentence. For each correction, explain the grammar rule in English.'
4	Study errors Read every correction carefully. Copy the corrected version into a notebook.
5	Rewrite Rewrite the essay from scratch using what you learned. This cements the corrections.
6	Add to Anki Any word or phrase you keep getting wrong — create an Anki card for it.

Useful AI prompts for German writing practice

"Act as a German teacher. Correct my text and explain each error in English."

"Give me a list of 10 essay topics suitable for A2 German learners."

"Write me a model paragraph on [topic] at B1 level so I can study it."

"What is the difference between Perfekt and Praeteritum? Give me 5 examples each."

"Create a fill-in-the-blank exercise using the Akkusativ case."

6. SPEAKING — iTALKI TUTOR

What is iTalki?

iTalki (italki.com) is an online marketplace connecting language learners with native-speaking tutors and professional teachers from around the world. For German learners, it is the single best way to get real speaking practice outside of living in a German-speaking country.

Feature	Community Tutor	Professional Teacher
Cost/hour	5 – 15 EUR	15 – 40 EUR
Qualification	Native speaker	Certified (TestDaF, Goethe)
Best for	Conversation, A1–B1	Grammar, exam prep
Session type	Informal chat	Structured lesson plan
Recommendation	A1, A2 speaking	B1 exam preparation

How to get the most from each iTalki session

Prepare 3–5 conversation topics or questions BEFORE the lesson

Record the session (with tutor's permission) — review mistakes afterwards

Ask your tutor to correct you every time you make a grammar mistake

At the end of each session, write down 5 new words/phrases you heard

Book sessions consistently — once per week minimum, twice per week ideal

At B1 level, switch to exam-focused teachers who know the Goethe B1 format

FREE ALTERNATIVE: Language Exchange

Use Tandem (tandem.net) or HelloTalk app to find native German speakers learning your language. Practice 30 min in German, 30 min in your language. Completely free and great for casual conversation practice between iTalki sessions.

7. ESSENTIAL TOOLS & RESOURCES

These tools supercharge every part of your learning. Most are free.

1	Language Reactor (Chrome Extension) <i>getlanguagereactor.com</i>	Adds dual subtitles (German + English) to YouTube and Netflix. Click any word to see its translation and save it to your vocabulary list. Completely changes how you watch German content — every video becomes a lesson.
2	Easy German (YouTube) <i>youtube.com/@EasyGerman</i>	Street-interview videos with dual subtitles. Native speed, real Germans, real conversations. Essential from A2 onwards. Their podcast is also excellent for listening practice.

3	Deutsche Welle (DW Learn German) dw.com/de/deutsch-lernen	Completely free courses from A1 to C1 produced by Germany's international broadcaster. Structured, high-quality, available as audio, video, and text. Great supplement to Fluenz.
4	Forvo forvo.com	The world's largest pronunciation dictionary. Type any German word and hear it pronounced by native speakers from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Invaluable before your iTalki session.
5	dict.cc dict.cc	The best German-English dictionary online. Shows example sentences, forum discussions about nuanced usage, and audio pronunciations. Better than Google Translate for serious learners.
6	Conjugato / Verbformen.de verbformen.de	Complete German verb conjugation tables for every verb. Bookmark this — you will use it daily when writing and checking grammar.
7	Internations / Meetup internations.org meetup.com	Find German-language meetups, stammtisch (regular pub meetups), and conversation circles in your city. Free real-world speaking practice with other learners and native speakers.

8. LEVEL-BY-LEVEL ROADMAP

Level A1 — Absolute Beginner

~3 months | 1–1.5 hrs/day

Daily Activities:

- Fluenz German 1 (all sessions)
- Anki: 700 A1 vocabulary words
- Reading: DW Learn German A1 texts
- Writing: 3 short paragraphs per week (50–80 words each)
- Speaking: 2x iTalki sessions per month

You will be able to:

Introduce yourself (name, age, nationality, job)
Ask simple questions: Wo ist? Was kostet? Wie heisst du?
Handle simple transactions: shopping, ordering food
Understand very slow, simple speech
Write a 50-word self-introduction

A1 can be completed entirely through self-study. You do NOT need a language school at this stage.

Level A2 — Elementary

~3 months | 1.5 hrs/day

Daily Activities:

- Fluenz German 2 (complete the course)
- Anki: 700 additional words (1,400 total)
- Reading: Deutsch Perfekt A2 articles (2 per week)
- Writing: 1 paragraph per day (100 words)
- Speaking: 1x iTalki session per week
- Watching: Easy German YouTube (3x per week with Language Reactor)

You will be able to:

Talk about past events using Perfekt tense
Understand most everyday conversations on familiar topics
Write short personal messages, emails, descriptions
Navigate transport, health, and service situations
Discuss plans and future events

A2 is still manageable as self-study. Start increasing iTalki sessions to build speaking confidence.

Level B1 — Intermediate (Goethe / OeSD / Telc B1)

~6 months | 2 hrs/day

Daily Activities:

- Fluenz German 3 + supplement with DW B1 course
- Anki: 1,600 more words (3,000+ total)
- Reading: Deutsch Perfekt B1 articles + a simple German novel
- Writing: 150–200 word essays, 3x per week with AI correction
- Speaking: 2x iTalki sessions per week (exam-focused teacher)
- Listening: Easy German podcast, DW Langsam gesprochene Nachrichten

You will be able to:

Understand the main points of standard speech on familiar topics
Deal with most travel situations in German-speaking countries
Write clear, connected text on familiar topics
Describe experiences, events, and briefly give reasons and explanations
Pass the official B1 exam (Goethe, OeSD, or Telc)

STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: Enrol in a language school for B1. A qualified teacher would really be helpful.

9. SAMPLE DAILY STUDY SCHEDULE

A realistic daily schedule for an A2 learner spending ~90 minutes/day. Adjust times to fit your life — consistency beats duration.

TIME	ACTIVITY	TOOL	SKILL
Morning 7:00–7:15	Anki reviews	Anki app	Vocabulary
Morning 7:15–7:45	Fluenz session	Fluenz	Grammar
Lunch 12:15–12:30	Read one article	Deutsch Perfekt	Reading
Evening 19:00–19:20	Write a paragraph	ChatGPT	Writing
Evening 19:20–19:30	Add new words	Anki	Vocabulary
2x / week (evening)	iTalki session	iTalki	Speaking
Anytime (optional)	Watch YouTube	Language Reactor	Listening

10. OFFICIAL B1 EXAM INFORMATION

The B1 certificate is officially recognised for German citizenship applications, university admissions, and professional qualifications. Three main exam providers:

Exam	Provider	Cost (approx.)	Website
Goethe-Zertifikat B1	Goethe-Institut	150–200 EUR	goethe.de
OeSD Zertifikat B1	OeSD	100–160 EUR	osd.at
telc Deutsch B1	telc	90–150 EUR	telc.net

B1 Exam Components:

- **Lesen (Reading)** (~65 min) — 4 tasks with authentic texts
- **Hoeren (Listening)** (~40 min) — 4 audio tasks, played twice
- **Schreiben (Writing)** (~60 min) — Write a letter/email 80–100 words
- **Sprechen (Speaking)** (~15 min) — 3 parts: introduce yourself, plan a task, express opinion

11. FINAL PERSONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

STRONGLY RECOMMEND Language School for B1

Enrol in a language school for B1

A1 and A2 are very achievable through self-study using the tools in this guide. However, B1 is a significant step up — Konjunktiv II, Passiv constructions, complex subordinate clauses, and nuanced vocabulary. At this level, a qualified human teacher makes an enormous difference. They will catch fossilised errors you cannot see, explain grammar in context, and prepare you specifically for the exam format.

Look for evening courses (2x per week) at your local Volkshochschule (VHS) — typically 100–300 EUR per semester, available in most German-speaking countries and many major cities worldwide.

The combination of self-study tools (this guide) + language school for B1 is the most effective and cost-efficient path to certification.

Consistency wins: 30 minutes every day beats 3 hours on weekends.

Embrace mistakes: Every error is a data point. Correct it, learn it, move on.

Multiple exposures: Hear, read, write, and speak a word to truly own it.

Celebrate milestones: Finishing A1 is an achievement. Reward yourself.

Immerse yourself: Change your phone language to German. Watch German Netflix. Think in German.



(Good luck on your journey!)

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Questions? Reach out on social media or via your favourite platform. This guide is updated regularly — share it with a fellow German learner!