

How to continue practicing

There are different ways you can prepare for the “Lesen” section of the Start Deutsch 1 exam outside of your German class. The Learn German team at DW has put together a few tips for you. And don't forget to check out the exam providers' websites, too! You'll also find more tips and practice exams there.

General tips

1. Give yourself enough time to prepare for the exam. It makes more sense to study regularly than to cram for hours at the last minute.
2. How do you personally study best? Alone or with friends? In the morning or in the evening? On the couch or at a desk? Figure out what works best for you.
3. Look for a conversation partner - ideally a native German speaker learning your native language. That way you both practice both languages together. This is also something you can do online.
4. You won't have much time for this part of the test, so be sure to time yourself while you practice and assess how long you needed to complete this section.
5. It's fine if at first you concentrate on one part of the “Lesen” section while preparing for the exam, but make sure to also plan in time to go back and review each section in order. You shouldn't need more than 20 – 25 minutes for the “Lesen” section.
6. Find out whether you need more time for the “Lesen” section or for the “Schreiben” section. Divide your time accordingly.
7. Which part of this section of the exam is particularly difficult for you? Make sure to practice this section even more.
8. It's possible that numbers, prices, the time of day and the days of the week will appear in this section. Practice different ways of saying these things. For example, “halb acht” and “7 Uhr 30.”
9. Prepare for the “Lesen” section of the exam by paying close attention to how it's structured.

Reading and understanding short messages

1. You won't have much time during the exam, so it's important you avoid trying to understand every single word. Instead, search for specific information in the text. Do you have trouble ignoring new vocabulary that's difficult to understand? One way to deal with this is to cross out all of the words you don't know so you can no longer read them. You can also do this for digital texts by deleting unknown words. Are you still able to understand the gist of the text?
2. Take another close look at the A1 vocabulary list from the exam provider. Are there words you need to review?
3. Send an e-mail to different companies or organizations asking for information. For example, you could contact a travel agent to ask about its special deals.
4. Do you have a study partner? Try exchanging e-mails. This will help you practice understanding short messages.
5. Do you have a study partner? Practice by using different e-mails you have received. Write true or false statements based on these e-mails and quiz each other.

Selecting the correct ad

1. Think of an imaginary situation. For example, "Ich möchte einen Kochkurs machen." Search for a related keyword online and look at the list of results. It's not necessary to open the websites. Which result best matches your imaginary situation?
2. Do you live in a German-speaking country? Look for ads – in newspapers, for example. Are you able to understand what they're about? What are the people, stores or businesses offering? You can also take pictures of ads you see in your everyday life, for example in the university cafeteria or in the supermarket.
3. Do you have a study partner? Look for ads together relating to a specific topic (for example, for an apartment). Each person should choose two ads, and then think of test prompts to quiz each other with. For example, "Sie suchen eine Wohnung mit Balkon."
4. Think of an imaginary situation. For example, "Ich möchte montags einen Fitnesskurs besuchen." Write down key words you would expect to see in an ad for that.
5. Sometimes the text in an ad will be incomplete. If you have difficulty understanding it, try to add the missing words. For example, verbs.

Reading and understanding different types of signs and notices

1. Think about which types of signs and notices there are. Make a list of keywords and use a search engine to find images of them. Look at the different pictures. Can you understand the function of each type of sign? Is it a warning or a notice? If you have a study partner, think of sentences – both suitable and unsuitable – for specific pictures.
2. Do you live in a German-speaking country? Take pictures of the different types of signs you see in your everyday life. Write a true or false sentence about each of them.
3. Do you know the typical words you'll find on signs? For example, warning signs use words like "verboten," "darf man nicht," "nicht erlaubt." Think of typical words for other signs and write them down.
4. When working with a study partner, think of an imaginary situation where signs are important. Write the message of a standard sign, a warning sign and a notice. Then write a true or false sentence about each one of them. Quiz each other.