

## How to continue practicing

**When it comes to getting ready for the “Hören” section of the Goethe-Zertifikat A2, there are different ways you can prepare outside of your German class. The Learn German team at DW has come up with a few tips just for you. Don’t forget to check out the exam providers’ websites for more tips and practice exams.**

## 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. In this part of the exam, you will often need to understand numbers, prices, the time of day and the days of the week. Practice different ways of saying these things. For example, “halb acht” and “7 Uhr 30.”
5. In each section of the test, focus on what you understand rather than on what you don’t know.
6. You can also use A2 listening exercises from other test providers, even if they differ from the ones used for the Goethe-Zertifikat A2. It’s important to listen to as many examples at your level as possible. You can find an overview of other A2 exams at [DW Learn German](#).
7. Prepare for the “Hören” section of the exam by paying close attention to how it’s structured.

## Listening to and understanding short messages

1. In this section of the exam, you will hear different types of information. For example, an announcement. Think about different types of announcements and where you hear them. Note down in German what information and which words you would expect to hear. In the exam, you will also hear words you don’t understand. You can still answer the questions as long as you’ve practiced your A2 vocabulary. Take another look at the [Goethe-Institut](#) vocabulary list.

2. Do you live in a German-speaking country? Then the train station is a good place to practice listening to announcements. Don't be frustrated if you don't understand everything – the sound quality in the actual test will be easier to understand than in real life.
3. Do you have a study partner? Write your own announcements or statements that match or do not match what you've heard. Quiz each other.
4. During this portion of the test, you will often hear voice mail messages. Think about what information you would typically hear if you called, for example, a doctor's office or a language school outside of normal working hours. You can also find additional examples online.
5. Try to think of situations where you would leave a voice message, for example if you needed to reschedule an appointment. You can do this alone or with a partner. Write down your responses and practice typical phrases.
6. Do you live in a German-speaking country? Try calling a doctor's office outside of working hours. Do you understand the most important information from the answering machine?
7. Leave a message on someone's voice mail or answering machine. In your message, ask a question and request the recipient to call you back. When the person returns your call, let it go to voice mail so the person will also leave a message for you. Before you listen to the message, think of three possible responses to the question you asked. Which one do you hear?
8. Do you have a conversation partner? Ask your partner to leave you a voice message. Do you understand the most important information?
9. You will also hear weather forecasts in this section of the exam. To prepare, you can first put together a list of typical words and phrases related to weather forecasts. You can use your textbook for this. Another option is to use AI, which can show you phrases at the A2 level by entering prompts like "Wortschatz Wetter A2" or "Wettervorhersage A2." This will give you different phrases to choose from. But be careful, not all of the phrases it provides will be A2 level. Read through all of the sentences and phrases and think about which ones you would like to repeat.
10. Find a map of Germany online, for example. Write down sentences you might hear in a weather forecast. For example: "Heute ist es in Berlin sonnig. Die Temperatur liegt bei 22 Grad." Then, listen to weather forecasts online and check to see if what you wrote was correct. You can do this on German radio station websites. The weather forecast is usually given at the end of broadcasts at the top of the hour or every half hour. You can also find the weather forecasts on YouTube.
11. Are you studying with someone else? Then you can use AI to come up with a weather forecast at A2 level. It can also create exercises for you, or you can come up with your own. You or your study partner can read the forecast aloud, and the other person answers questions about it.

## Listening to and understanding conversations

1. Try to listen to as much German as possible in your day-to-day life. For example, you can listen to podcasts or search for films and series (for example, for children). You don't need to understand every word. Concentrate on what you do understand and try not to get "stuck" on unknown words. This is also important in the exam.
2. Listen to audio clips several times. You will understand more each time you listen.
3. Have you been studying with a textbook? Then listen back through all of the conversations. Write the question words "wer?", "wann?" and "wo?" on a separate piece of a paper and fill in the information as you listen along. Do you know anyone with a different textbook? Try to borrow it and do the audio exercises.
4. Do you live in a German-speaking country? Try to listen in, for example, to conversations on the subway, the bus or at the train station. Can you understand what they're talking about?
5. Watch the videos from "[Nicos Weg A1](#)" and "[Nicos Weg A2](#)" on DW Learn German. You can also make up exercises to test yourself.

## Listening to and understanding an interview

1. Write down questions that you might hear in an interview and the answers to the questions. You can use AI to help you by prompting it with "20 Interviewfragen A2," for example. Think about how to answer these questions. Pay attention to the question words.
2. In order to prepare for this type of listening comprehension, you can also start by reading interviews. You can find interviews at your language level on the PASCH website under "[Lernmaterial](#)."
3. Consider who might be interviewed. For example, it could be a researcher who has developed an important medication. Think of several questions you could ask her. These could be about the person's research interests, university studies, daily work or plans for the future. Write an interview with this person.
4. If you have a study partner, you can interview each other. One person could take on a persona that you both are familiar with, for example Harry Potter or Mary Poppins, and then answer the questions pretending to be that person.
5. Have you been studying with a textbook? There you'll find interviews you can listen to and practice exercises.