

## How to continue practicing

**There are different ways you can prepare for the “Lesen” section of the Goethe-Zertifikat A2 exam outside of your German class. The Learn German team at DW has put together a few tips 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. 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 30 minutes for the “Lesen” section.
6. Which part of this section of the exam is particularly difficult for you? Make sure to practice that section even more.
7. It’s possible that numbers, prices, the time of day and the days of the weeks will appear in this section. Practice different ways of saying these things. For example, “halb acht” and “7 Uhr 30.”
8. Prepare for the “Lesen” section of the exam by paying close attention to how it’s structured.

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## Reading and understanding a newspaper or online article

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. First read the tasks and then try to find the answers in the text. The order of information asked for in the exercises matches the order of information in the text.
2. Do you have trouble ignoring new vocabulary in the text? 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?
3. Read as many articles as you can, even if they aren't written especially for your learning level. It's unlikely that the text you'll be given in the exam will be about something difficult like politics. Topics such as "Freizeit," "Familie," "Beruf und Ausbildung," or "Wohnen" are more likely. You can also find shorter texts using AI by entering: "Ich suche einen einfachen Online-Artikel zum Thema Wohnen in Deutschland." Remember: AI won't always choose a suitable article.
4. You can also practice reading articles written for children. For example, you can search for "Nachrichten für Kinder." In addition to videos and audio, you will also find websites with articles.
5. You can practice reading comprehension for A2 level by using the PASCH website in the section "[Lernmaterial](#)." Try to read texts that aren't exactly at your level. Are you still able to understand them?
6. You can also use articles on the Deutsche Welle website in the section [Top-Thema mit Vokabeln](#). These are for B1 level.
7. Have you been using a German textbook? Read all of the newspaper articles in your textbook. If you live in Germany, you can borrow other textbooks and also read the articles they use.
8. Do you have a study partner? Search for short, interesting articles that you can read and discuss together.
9. Other A2 exams also include newspaper and online articles in their reading comprehension sections. It's a good idea to look at exercises from other exam providers. You can find an overview of other exams at [DW Learn German](#).

## Reading and understanding signs

1. Do you live in a German-speaking country? Take pictures of the different types of signs, for example, in department stores and other buildings, and then take a look at them. Do you understand where to find what you're looking for?
2. Write down a sentence, such as "Ich möchte gern mit anderen singen." Then, search for "VHS Programm, Musik" and the name of a city. You can also enter a start and end date to limit the number of results. Have you found a suitable offer?
3. Do you have a study partner? Think of exercises for the exam. Use pictures of signs, event schedules or train schedules to prepare. You can find examples of these online. You can also get creative and make your own. Exchange and complete each other's exercises.
4. Other A2 exams also include signs in the "Lesen" section. It's a good idea to look at exercises from other exam providers. You can find an overview of other A2 exams at [DW Learn German](#).

## Reading and understanding e-mails

1. Do you have German acquaintances or a conversation partner? Write them e-mails (some long ones, too) on a regular basis.
2. Have you received any e-mails in German? Take a look at them. E-mails are usually made up of different sections. Can you recognize the topic of each section?
3. If you don't have a German acquaintance or have never received an e-mail in German, you use AI to generate you an e-mail by prompting "Schreib eine E-Mail auf A2-Niveau. Thema: Einladung zur Party am Samstag."
4. Do you have a study partner? Use the various e-mails you've received. Exchange e-mails and write exercises like the ones you'll have in the exam. Quiz each other.
5. Have you been studying with a textbook? These will also include examples of e-mails.

## Reading and selecting ads

1. Think of a situation, for example: “Ich möchte einen Kochkurs machen.” Search online using the German word “Kochkurs” or an entire sentence. Look at the search results. You don’t need to click on every website. Which result best matches your scenario?
2. Do you live in a German-speaking country? Look for ads in newspapers, for example. Are you able to understand what the ads are about? What are people, companies or firms offering? You can also start taking pictures of the ads you see every day, for example, in the cafeteria or at the supermarket.
3. Do you have a study partner? Look for ads about a specific topic (for example, looking for an apartment). Each of you should choose two ads and think of an exercise to complete – for example, “Sarah sucht eine Wohnung mit Balkon.”
4. Think of a scenario, for example, “Ich möchte montags einen Fitnesskurs besuchen.” Write down keywords you would expect to see for a corresponding ad.
5. Reading and selecting ads is also included in the “Reading” section of other A2 exams. It’s possible the questions will be structured differently than in the Goethe-Zertifikat A2 exam. Nevertheless, take a look at and complete practice tests from other exam providers. You’ll find an overview of other A2 exams for example on [DW Learn German](https://www.dw.com/learn-german).