

How to continue practicing

When it comes to getting ready for the “Schreiben” section of the Goethe-Zertifikat A2 exam, there are different ways you can prepare outside of your German class. The DW Learn German team 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. 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.
3. 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.
4. It’s fine if at first you concentrate on one section while preparing for the exam, but make sure to also plan in time to go back and review both “Schreiben” sections back-to-back. You shouldn’t need more than 30 minutes for the “Schreiben” section.
5. Don’t spend too much time on any one question. Don’t take too much time to think about the answer.
6. It’s important for the examiner to be able to read your handwriting. Ask a friend to evaluate your handwriting. Are there letters that are illegible or that could be mistaken for a different letter?
7. Don’t know anyone who speaks German well? Try having an AI correct your writing. You can find free AI programs online. For example, you can search for „KI Textkorrektur kostenlos“. Please be aware that for an A2-level test, you will not be expected to write perfectly.
8. Prepare for the “Schreiben” section of the exam by paying close attention to how it’s structured.

Writing a text message

1. Keep it simple. Write simple sentences with words and grammatical structures you already know.
2. Do you have a study partner? Write each other text messages in German on a regular basis.

3. Review how to begin and end a text message. For example, the common phrases used as the greeting and the closing.
4. Write down the names of people you could text. For example, “mein Sohn,” “mein Freund,” “meine Mutter,” or “meine Schwester.” Think about why you would write to this person. For example, to say you’re sorry, to ask for a favor, or to make plans to meet somewhere. Write a text message with 20-30 words. If you have a study partner, ask him or her to correct what you’ve written and to give you additional tips.
5. Review the vocabulary you need to ask a favor or to apologize. You can also find different phrases with the help of AI. For example, you could ask: “Wie kann ich mich auf Deutsch entschuldigen?”
6. Do you have a study partner? Each of you can write out a text message on a sheet of paper. Exchange what you’ve written and write a response. Then exchange your messages a few more times. You can also make three bullet points for information your message should include, just like in the exam.

Writing an e-mail or a letter

1. Keep it simple. Write simple sentences with words and grammatical structures you already know.
2. Use your textbook or online for examples of how to begin and end a formal e-mail or letter.
3. Write down the names of people you could write a formal e-mail or letter. For example, “die Klassenlehrerin meines Sohns,” “ein Mitarbeiter in einem Hotel,” “meine Chefin,” oder “meine Nachbarin.” Think about why you would be writing to this person and note down three appropriate points to address, just like in the exam. Then write your text on a separate sheet of paper. If you have a study partner, have him or her correct your writing. It’s important to use the Sie form and to have the correct greeting and closing. Have you also mentioned your three points?
4. You can also search for firms and organizations online that you’d like to write to. Think about questions you could ask. You can write your text on a separate sheet of paper or actually send it via e-mail.
5. Do you have a study partner? Think of exercises for this section of the exam and write each other formal e-mails. Then, write a response. You can take on the persona of a famous singer or actor for this exercise. It’s important that both of you know the person.