

How to continue practicing

When it comes to getting ready for the “Schreiben” section of the Start Deutsch 2 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. Think about the maximum amount of time you would like to take for both parts of the “Schreiben” section of the exam. For example, 8 minutes for the first part and 22 for the second. Check to see if your plan is realistic. Maybe you need a little more or a little less time than you thought. If you realize you need too much time one part, keep practicing it.
6. Find out whether you need more time for “Lesen” or “Schreiben” portion of the exam. You will have 50 minutes to complete both.
7. Don't spend too much time on any one task. Don't overthink your answers.
8. 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?
9. 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.” Remember, you will not be expected to write perfectly in an A2-level test. AI makes mistakes, too, so when in doubt, rely on what you learned in your German class.
10. Prepare for the “Schreiben” section of the exam by paying close attention to how it's structured.

Filling out a form

1. Think about situations where you need to fill out a form and then search for examples of the forms online (for example, signing up for a class or a club). Print out the form and fill it out. It's possible there will be words you don't understand. You can leave those parts blank.
2. Look at a form. Which terms are difficult for you? Check to see whether they're included in A2-level vocabulary. You can use your textbook's vocabulary lists. Think of phrases that complement these terms. For example, "Familienstand – Sie ist verheiratet. / Sie ist ledig./ ...". You can also have an AI show you more terms. For example, use the prompt: "Wortschatz A2 Familienstand."
3. Do you have a study partner? Think of situations where you have to fill out a form. Choose someone who needs to fill out the form. It could be a friend or someone you've made up. Write a short text, for example: "Sara Miller möchte einen Platz in einem Schwimmkurs für ihren Sohn. Er ist sechs Jahre alt ...". Think of other information that's important, for example, Sara Miller's banking details, an address, appointments during the week when her son doesn't have time to swim, or swimming classes he's already attended. Then each person creates a form for the situation. Fill out your study partner's form. Review the texts and see how you each did.

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 go online to review greetings and salutations for both formal and informal e-mails and letters. Write down the names of people you could write a formal e-mail or letter. For example, "die Klassenlehrerin meines Sohns, Frau Stephan" "ein Mitarbeiter in einem Hotel," "meine Chefin, Frau Weiler", "mein Nachbar, Herr Bergmann," "meine Freundin, Lucy," or "mein Großvater." Then write the appropriate opening and closing.
3. Use the list above and think of a topic and different subcategories of information that could come up in an e-mail or letter to this person. For example, "ein Mitarbeiter in einem Hotel – Übernachtung: 25. September, Zweibettzimmer, Frühstück, Haustiere." Then write a sentence for each bullet point, for example: "Ich möchte am 25. September in Ihrem Hotel übernachten." / "Haben Sie ein Zweibettzimmer frei?" / "Um wie viel Uhr kann man in Ihrem Hotel frühstücken?" / "Darf ich meinen Hund mitbringen?" Then write an e-mail or a letter using all of the sentences you've written down. If you can, have your study partner correct your text. Please be aware that for an A2-level test, you will not be expected to

write perfectly. What's important, for example, here is to use the "Sie" form in a formal e-mail or formal letter and the appropriate opening and closing. You must also write one to two sentences for each bullet point.

4. Create exam questions by yourself or with a study partner. Include a reason for writing your message, for example: "Die Klassenlehrerin Ihres Sohnes hat eine E-Mail geschrieben. Sie braucht Hilfe bei einem Klassenfest. Antworten Sie auf die E-Mail." Then write down four bullet points that need to be mentioned, for example: „wann?“, „was?“, „einkaufen“, „mehrere Eltern“. Write a text of approximately 40 words. If you're working on this with a study partner or in a study group, review the texts and let each other know how it went.
5. 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 them via e-mail.
6. Do you have a study partner? Write each other e-mails on a regular basis. You can each take on a different persona. For example, write from the perspective of a famous singer or actor. What's important is that each of you knows the person. Write both formal and informal e-mails.