

How to continue practicing

There are several ways you can prepare for the “Sprechen” section of the Start Deutsch 2 exam 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. During the exam, you and another test participant will have to introduce yourselves and answer questions posed by the examiner. You will have to ask the other participant questions about a specific topic and also answer his or her questions. In the last part, you both will have to come to an agreement about something. Even though you can use certain phrases, it doesn’t make sense to memorize entire texts. If you get nervous, they are easy to forget.
2. 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.
3. Even if you’re practicing alone for the oral exam, it’s useful to speak out loud. You can also record yourself, for example, on your smartphone.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Try to speak as much German as possible in your everyday life.
7. Don’t be afraid to make mistakes.
8. Prepare for the “Sprechen” section of the exam by paying close attention to how it’s structured.

Introducing yourself

1. Make notecards with words you’ll need to say during the exam: “Name,” “Alter,” “Land,” etc. Place them face down on a table. Turn over one card and say one or two sentences about the word you see. You can also practice this with a study partner.
2. Write down words or phrases you’ll need to introduce yourself. Practice them regularly, for example, while you’re cooking, on a walk or shortly before going to bed. Make sure to speak out loud – like you would during the exam.

3. During the exam, you will only need to say a few sentences about yourself. After that, the examiner will ask you more question. To prepare you can practice by talking about yourself as much as possible. For example, in response to the word “Wohnort?” can you say more than the name of your city? Can you talk about where it is, which other cities are close by or how to get there?
4. Do you have a study partner? Write down the names of (famous) people on a sheet of paper. For example, you could choose the name of a family member or of a famous person, like that of your favorite singer. Pretend you’re that person and introduce yourself: “Ich heiße...” Don’t worry about your answers being truthful.
5. Think about which questions the examiner could ask. Write down keywords that could come up. For example, if your hobby is reading, you can write, “Hobby – Lesen.” Think of matching questions, for example: “Hobby – Lesen: Welche Bücher lesen Sie? / Wann lesen Sie? / Wie heißt Ihr Lieblingsbuch? / ...” Can you answer all of these questions? Answer out loud. You can also practice with a study partner.

Asking and answering questions about everyday conversations

1. Write a list of everyday topics you can ask personal questions about. For example, “Geburtsort,” “Sprachen,” “Wochenende,” etc. A few “typical” questions you could ask will probably come to mind. For example, “Sprachen – Welche Sprachen sprichst du?” Can you think of any others? To prepare for this part of the exam, you can write down different question words, for example “Wann?”, “Wo?”, “Wie?”, “Was?” or “Mit wem?” etc. Select a topic from the list and try to ask a question with each of these words.
2. Make two stacks of cards. Write down different question words for the first stack. For example, “Wann?”, “Wo?”, “Wie?” etc. For the second stack, write down different topics you can ask about. For example, “Geburtstag,” “Urlaub,” “Hobbys,” etc. Flip over a card from each stack. Can you come up with a question? If you need help, you can also use AI by entering, for example, “Frage auf A2 mit: Wo, Geburtstag.”
3. Write down different topics that could appear on the test. Next to them, write out information you could mention in your answer. For example, “Geburtsort – Bangkok,” “Hobbys – Tennis und Kino.” Are you able to find information for each topic? Talk about yourself out loud. If this is difficult at first, you can start by writing down one sentence.
4. Write down different questions that could appear in this section of the exam. They will always relate to everyday topics (ex. “Familie,” “Wohnen,” “Essen und Trinken,” ...). You can also use AI to ask you different questions. For example, you can enter, “20 Fragen auf A2 zu meiner Person.” Formulate your answers and say them out loud.
5. When answering a question, try to say more than one sentence.
6. Do you have a study partner? Test each other. Create exercises just like in the exam.

Coming to an agreement

1. Your conversation partner needs to be able to understand you well. So, it's better to keep your sentences simple.
2. Repeat words and sentences you can use to make suggestions – for example, about an appointment – or that you can use to react to a suggestion. You will often find phrases for this in your textbook. You can also use AI to find suitable phrases by prompting: "Sätze für Vorschläge A2." It's possible answers generated by AI will be too difficult for the A2 level. Only use the phrases you've already learned in class.
3. Do you have a study partner? Practice talking about meeting up in German. Start by thinking of a reason to meet. You can keep your actual schedule in mind as you make plans, or you could create your own calendar with fake appointments. If you're unable to find a time to meet, then come up with a creative solution. For example, you could move or cancel another appointment.
4. Are you studying by yourself? You can start by writing a dialogue about making plans for a day trip. Do you need examples of how this could look before you can get started? Try using AI. You can enter, for example: "4 Dialoge, einen Termin finden, Ausflug, A2." You can, of course, change the numbers.