

How to continue practicing

There are different ways you can prepare for the “Lesen” section of the Deutsch-Test für Zuwanderer (DTZ) 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 45 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. The DTZ tests two different language levels, so it’s possible you will be given questions that are a little too easy or too difficult for you. Don’t let this throw you off.
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 signs

1. Do you live in Germany? Take pictures of the different types of signs you see, such as 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 using the image search function.
4. With a study partner or on your own, you can create signs, programs or course descriptions. First, choose a location for the sign, such as a department store, a government agency or a hospital. Put together a list of suitable vocabulary words. If this is too difficult, you can look for suitable words in your textbook or with the help of AI by using a prompt, such as “Stockwerke, Kaufhaus, Beispiel.” Select words you’ve already learned and create a sign. Think of questions like those you’ll have in the exam and test each other. If you opt for creating a program instead, you can follow these steps, too. For example, think up a course description that includes days of the week and a start time. AI can help you here, too. Here’s what your prompt could look like: “Einfaches Kursprogramm einer Volkshochschule mit Wochentagen und Uhrzeiten.” If you like, you could also be more specific by adding information about the subjects, such as “Musik” or “Sprachunterricht.” Think of questions like those you’ll have in the exam and test each other.
5. 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 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? Underline important sections of the ad or note down the keywords, for example “Arbeit als Koch.”
3. You won’t understand every single word in the ad. Practice by reading an ad and crossing out all of the words that are unfamiliar to you. Do you still understand the ad?
4. You can try to take photos of ads you see in your everyday life – for example in the cafeteria or at the supermarket. Use these to practice.
5. Think of a scenario, for example, “Ich möchte montags einen Fitnesskurs besuchen.” Write down keywords you would expect to see for a corresponding ad. You can check your answers with the help of AI. Here’s what your prompt could look like: “4 Beispiele für Anzeigen für Fitnesskurse.” Read the AI-generated results. Do they include any of the words you used?

6. Do you have a study partner? Give each other questions like the ones you'll have in the exam. For example, search for eight different ads. You can use AI by prompting it to give you, "8 kurze Anzeigen Internet, 30 Wörter." You could also enter the topic (for example, "Englischkurs") so that you'll be given several similar results. Then, come up with five different scenarios. For example, "Sie möchten Englisch lernen. Sie haben abends Zeit." In the exam, one of the scenarios won't have a matching ad, but there's no need to do this while practicing. However, you should make sure that there is only one matching pair. When you complete your study partner's practice question, cross out the ads that have already been used.
7. Reading and selecting ads is also included in the "Lesen" section of other exams. It's possible the questions will be structured differently than in the DTZ exam. Nevertheless, take a look at and complete practice tests from other exam providers. You'll find an overview of other A2 and B1 exams for example on [DW Learn German](#).

Reading and understanding messages

1. In this section, you will read information published, for example, in a newspaper. First, write down possible topics aimed at informing readers. For example, "eine Veranstaltung," "eine Baustelle in der Stadt," "eine Aktion für Kinder." Then, consider which points could be mentioned in the text and write the corresponding vocabulary words on a separate sheet of paper. You can use AI once you're finished to check your vocabulary words. Here's an example of a prompt you could use: "Zeitungsmeldung Baustelle in der Stadt." Do the words you wrote down appear in the notice?
2. Search online for notices about an event, for example. Enter the word "Veranstaltungen" and the name of a city. You can go to the official site of a city and search for appropriate texts there. First, read the title. Do you understand what type of event it is? Then, read the text. Were you right? Note: You probably won't understand every single word. Don't let this throw you off. You can also just cross out or delete all the words that are unfamiliar to you. Are you still able to understand the text?
3. Are you preparing for the test with a study partner? Search for an informational text online and come up with questions like in the exam. You can also write your own texts or use AI. Here's an example of a prompt you could use: "Beispiel für einen Informationstext über ein Musikfestival."
4. If you've been studying with a textbook, you will also find examples of informational texts there. If you live in a German-speaking country, you can check out additional textbooks from the library. Read the texts and answer the questions in the textbook.

5. In this section, there will be both formal and semi-formal e-mails or letters about topics from everyday life. For example, a message to a repairman or to a landlady. Do you have German acquaintances or a study or conversation partner? Write e-mails (long ones, too) to each other regularly. Use “Sie”, a formal greeting and a formal salutation at the end.
6. Do you have an e-mail in German in your inbox? Take a look at it. Usually, it’s divided into sections. Can you tell what the topic is for each section?
7. If you don’t have a German acquaintance and don’t receive e-mails in German, you can have an AI program write you one using a prompt, such as “Beispiel für eine formelle E-Mail auf A2-Niveau/B1-Niveau. Thema: Einladung zum Straßenfest am Samstag.” You can also enter the word count (for example, “150 Wörter), which is approximately the length of the texts in the exam.
8. Do you have a study partner? Use different e-mails you’ve received. Trade e-mails and write questions like in the exam. Quiz each other.
9. The “Lesen” section of other exams will also include notifications. It’s possible that these questions will be structured differently than in the DTZ. Nevertheless, look at the mock exams offered by other providers and work through the questions. You can find an overview of other A2 and B1 exams at [DW Learn German](#).

Reading and understanding informational texts

1. You can find examples of informational texts online. For example, search for “Beispiel Hausordnung Jugendherberge”. You can also search for FAQs. If you have a study partner, you can use these texts to create your own questions. Quiz each other.
2. In this section of the exam, you will read informational texts that could be found, for example, in brochures. For example, a brochure about general rules and regulations, or longer descriptions explaining what’s important when it comes to working together, the school day or recreation. First, consider in which situation this type of informational text would appear. It could be, for example, the rules for using a company conference room. Think about which rules these could be. For example, “Wo und wie kann man den Raum buchen?” / “Wo bekommt man den Schlüssel für den Raum?” / “Was ist im Raum nicht erlaubt?” Use the vocabulary you’ve already learned. Then, consider how the rules could be worded. If need be, review phrases such as “Hier darf man (nicht) ...” / “... ist verboten.” / “... ist nicht erlaubt.” / “Man muss ...” / “Es ist nötig, dass ...” / ...
3. In this section of the exam, it’s important to read only the sections of the text that are relevant to the question. First, search for an informational text online, for example, but don’t read it yet. Then, write several sentences that could describe the text. For example, if you have a text about rules in a youth hostel, your sentence could read, “Müll muss getrennt werden.” Then, think of other words for “Müll” and additional words related to

the topic, such as "Abfall," "Mülleimer," "Mülltonne," "Flaschen," "Papier." Then, search for these words in the text. The text is usually divided into different sections with separate headings. These can also help you find the right section of the text.

4. Do you have a conversational partner? Ask for informational texts your partner has received. For example, this could be information about a school or health tips from a health insurer. Use these to help you prepare for the exam.
5. Have you been studying German with a textbook? Read all the informational texts you can find in your textbook and answer the questions.
6. Other BI exams also include informational texts in the "Lesen" section. It's a good idea to look at exercises from other exam providers. You can find an overview of other BI exams at [DW Learn German](#).

Filling in the blanks of a letter or an e-mail

1. In this section, you will have to fill in the blanks of a letter or an e-mail with the missing words. Review vocabulary words that occur frequently in letters and e-mails. For example, common phrases used to begin and end a message. Differentiate between formal and semi-formal letters/e-mails.
2. Do you have e-mails or letters in German you can use to prepare? First, erase or cross out individual words so that you're no longer able to read them. Do be sure to note down which words you've removed. Wait a day or two before filling in the blanks. It's a good idea to prepare for this section with a study partner. Use e-mails or letters you've received. Create questions for each other. You can also find examples of letters online. For example, you can search for "Beispiel Brief Beschwerde."
3. If you don't have any German acquaintances and have never received an e-mail in German, then you can also use AI to create one for you. Here's an example of a prompt: "Beispiel für eine E-Mail auf A2-Niveau/B1-Niveau. Thema: Hotelreservierung." You can also ask for an example of a letter, and add the word count (for example, "100 Wörter") so that the text has the same length as the one in the exam.
4. Do you have a study partner? Write each other e-mails with missing words. Take on different roles, for example, pretend one of you is a school principal. The other is the parent of one of the students. Think of a scenario, for example, "Der Matheunterricht an der Schule findet seit drei Wochen nicht statt, weil der Lehrer krank ist. Die Mutter/der Vater beschwert sich." Then, exchange e-mails and respond.