

How to continue practicing

When it comes to getting ready for the “Hören” section of the Start Deutsch 1 exam, there are different ways you can prepare outside of your German class. The Learn German team at DW has come up with a few tips just for you. Don’t forget to check out the websites of the exam providers, too! There you’ll also find 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. In this part of the exam, you will often need to understand numbers, prices, the time of day and the days of the week. Practice different ways of saying these things. For example, “halb acht” and “7 Uhr 30.”
5. Prepare for the “Hören” section of the exam by paying close attention to how it’s structured.

Listening to and understanding conversations

1. Try to listen to as much German as possible in your day-to-day life. For example, you can listen to podcasts or search for films and series (for example, for children). You don't need to understand every word, so concentrate on what you do understand. Try not to get “stuck” on unknown words. This is also important in the exam.
2. Have you been studying with a textbook? Then listen back through all of the conversations. Write the question words “wer?,” “wann?” and “wo?” on a separate piece of paper and fill in the information as you listen along. Do you know anyone with a different textbook? Try to borrow it and do the same exercise.
3. Do you live in a German-speaking country? Try to overhear, for example, conversations on the subway, the bus or at the train station. Are you able to understand what they’re talking about?
4. Write your own dialogue. For example, a dialogue between two people who are making plans to meet. This is a good way to review vocabulary.

5. You can also practice basic vocabulary and simple phrases using DW's "[Deutschtrainer](#)". There you will also find translations of the words listed. The "Deutschtrainer" is available in different languages.

Listening to and understanding announcements

1. Think about different types of announcements and where you hear them. You may also do this in another language. Make notes in German about what type of information and words you would expect to hear. You will also hear unfamiliar words during the test.
2. Do you live in a German-speaking country? The train station is a good place to practice listening to announcements. Don't be frustrated if you don't understand everything – the sound quality in the actual test will be easier to understand than in real life.
3. Do you have a study partner? Write your own announcements or statements that match what you've heard. Quiz each other.

Listening to and understanding messages

1. During this portion of the test, you will frequently hear messages related to voice mail. Think about what information you would typically hear if you called, for example, a doctor's office or a language school outside of normal working hours. You can also find additional examples online.
2. Try to think of situations in which you would leave a voice message, for example if you needed to reschedule an appointment. You can do this alone or with a partner. Write down your responses.
3. Do you live in a German-speaking country? Try calling a doctor's office outside of working hours. Do you understand the most important information from the answering machine?
4. Leave a message on someone's voice mail. / on someone's answering machine. Your message should contain a question and ask the recipient to call you back. When the person returns your call, let it go to voice mail so the person will also have to leave a message. Before you listen to the message, think of three possible responses to the question you asked. Which one do you hear?
5. Do you have a conversation partner? Ask your partner to leave you a voice message. Do you understand the most important information?