

## How to continue practicing

**When it comes to getting ready for the “Schreiben” section of the Start Deutsch I 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. And 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. 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 20 – 25 minutes for the “Schreiben” section.
5. Find out whether you need more time for the “Lesen” section or for the “Schreiben” section. Divide your time accordingly.
6. Don’t spend too much time on any one question. Don’t take too much time to think about the answer.
7. 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?
8. Don’t know anyone who speaks German well? Try having an AI correct your writing. You can find free AI programs by simply searching online. For example, you can search for “KI Textkorrektur kostenlos.” Please be aware that for an AI-level test, you will not be expected to write perfectly.
9. Prepare for the “Schreiben” section of the exam by paying close attention to how it’s structured.

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## Filling out a form

1. Think about situations in which you must fill out a form. Look for examples of forms online. For example, for signing up for a class or joining a club. Print the form out and fill it out. You might not understand every word. You can leave these parts blank.
2. Look at a form. Which terms are difficult for you? Check to see whether they're included in A1 vocabulary. You can use the exam's vocabulary lists. They're available on the [Goethe-Institut's website](#). Think of phrases that complement these terms. For example, "Familienstand – Sie ist verheiratet. / Sie ist ledig. / ..."
3. Do you have a study partner? Think of situations in which you must 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 ...". 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 search online for examples of how to begin and end a formal or an informal e-mail or letter. Practice phrases for beginning and ending this type of message.
3. Having trouble phrasing your questions? Try writing down different question words and write out as many questions as you can in 10 minutes.
4. 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 questions. Then write a formal or an informal e-mail. If you have a study partner, have him or her correct your writing.
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. Write an informal e-mail to a friend. Make sure your message contains three different points.
7. Do you have a study partner? Think of exercises for this section of the exam and write each other e-mails. Review the messages and see how you each did. Pay close attention to the opening and closing. Are they appropriate for an informal or formal message? Have you hit on each point of the exercise in this e-mail?