

How to continue practicing

There are several ways you can prepare for the “Sprechen” section of the ÖSD Zertifikat A2 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. In the exam, you will have to talk about yourself and act out a dialogue with a partner during which you will have to complete a task. For example, you need to organize a party together. Even though you can use certain phrases, it doesn’t make sense to memorize entire texts. If you get nervous, you will easily forget them.
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 of making mistakes.
8. During the exam, you will have 10 minutes to prepare for and make notes for the tasks. Take this preparation time into consideration while studying and preparing for the exam. You won’t have enough time to write down entire sentences during the exam, so it’s important to write down key words only.
9. Prepare for the “Speaking” section of the exam by paying close attention to how it’s structured.

Introduce yourself

1. In this portion of the exam, you will be given a list with six topics, for example, “Beruf”, “Reisen”, “Musik”, “... mache gern ...”, “Familie” and “Sprachen”. You must choose five of these topics. Think about which topics you find easier and which you find harder. Then, write down keywords you need in order to talk about these topics. You can write these down on a separate piece of paper in German or in your native language. Look up words you don’t know, for example, related to vocational training or your profession, and memorize them.
2. Do you have an unusual hobby that you’d still like to talk about? Write down phrases you can use to describe your hobby on a separate piece of paper. For example, “ Das ist ein Sport mit einem Ball. Das ist ein bisschen wie Basketball.“, „Das macht man mit einer Partnerin oder einem Partner.“, „Das ist sehr beliebt in meinem Land.“
3. Make notecards with expressions you’ll need to talk about during the exam: “Beruf,” “Reisen,” “Musik”, ... Write cards with other topics from your daily life, for example, “Wochenende”, “Lieblingssessen”, 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 and have them ask you more questions.
4. Review useful phrases that are necessary to talk about the topics in this section. You can use your German book to help you. Read all of the dialogues where people talk about themselves and their daily lives. Are there expressions you find helpful? You can use the DW Learn German video language course “Nicos Weg A1” to help you prepare. There, too, you’ll find examples of the people talking about their families, professions or hobbies.
5. Write down words or short 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.
6. In the exam, it won’t be enough to say just one sentence about yourself for each topic. Prepare in the following way: Choose a topic and say as much as possible about yourself. If that is too difficult, you can also write your topics down on a separate sheet of paper and note down keywords, for example, “Familie - Wie viele Personen?,” “Eltern?,” “Geschwister?”...
7. Do you have a study partner? Write down the names of different people. For example, the name of a family member or of your favorite singer. Take on the role of that person and talk about these topics. You don’t have to be truthful!

Making plans with someone

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 or respond to suggestions – for example, about an appointment or an idea. You will often find phrases for this in your textbook. You can also use artificial intelligence (AI) to find suitable phrases by entering "Sätze für Vorschläge A2." It's possible answers generated by AI will be too difficult for A2 level. Use only 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. Write down different situations that require planning. For example, a party or a trip together. Think of the different questions such as "wann?", "wo?", "mit wem?". You can also make a mindmap with keywords. If you have a study partner, you can talk about what needs to be done to organize the event.
5. Write the word "party" on a separate sheet of paper and think of three different places for a party that you can search for pictures of online. Print out the pictures. Think of additional questions like in the exam and search for three more pictures for each one. Then, prepare for the conversation: think about how you would plan the party and write down keywords on a separate sheet of paper. Think about which parts of the planning you would like to do and which you wouldn't. What would you say if you needed to ask someone to take on one of these tasks? You can write different phrases down first.
6. Are you studying by yourself? You can start by writing a dialogue about throwing a party, for example.