



LANGUAGE TOOLKIT

GERMAN

READING

Websites such as **Deutsche Welle** and **Deutsch Perfekt** provide resources for all learning levels including complete beginners, such as news articles, grammar activities and vocabulary lists.

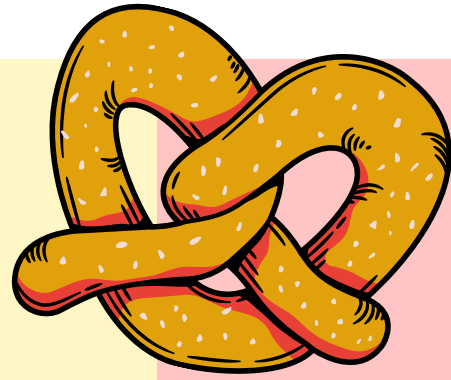
The blog **YourDailyGerman** has grammar resources as well as vocabulary deep-dives, exploring origins and usages of each 'word of the day'. Comes with an e-mail newsletter.

Schlaukopf.de provides free online courses modelled after school learning, organised by year level.

Schubert-verlag.de is organised from A1-C2, with 'chapters' dedicated to vocabulary and grammar activities. You can also find workbook PDFs if you prefer to learn in a more structured way.

Read **German short stories and fairytales** (follow the link) written for beginners to develop vocabulary and identify grammatical structures.

Use a mixture of grammar resources such as **deutsch-lernen.com** and online dictionaries such as **Langenscheidt** to supplement your learning.



APPS

Use language learning apps such as **Duolingo**, **Babbel** and **Rosetta Stone** to supplement your learning. It's important to mix these with grammar exercises as German grammar can be intimidating. Try '**Der Die Dass**' for learning genders, and '**Clozemaster**' for vocabulary and sentence construction.

SPEAKING

Speak to yourself, read vocabulary out loud, and repeat lines after actors in shows to get used to German sounds. As you get more confident, start speaking with other people.

Goethe-Institut Australia gives paid language classes in Edgecliffe.

Aloha Language Exchange is a free, tri-weekly exchange that takes place in bars across Sydney. It's a great opportunity to practice your speaking skills with native speakers and other learners. You can also try **meetup.com** and **Duolingo meetups** to find fellow German learners.

The **Lingoda Sprint** is a great online program where you take either 15 or 30 German classes a month for two months, and if you complete it successfully you get half your money back. The lessons are all taught by native German speakers and run at all hours of the day.

LISTENING

MUSIC

Listening to German music can be a fun and relaxing way to passively practice your listening skills. To augment the study experience, read along to the lyrics as you listen. Use a dictionary to translate any words you don't know then work on memorising the lyrics so you can identify each word as you listen to the song again. This is an enjoyable and useful way to expand your vocabulary and improve comprehension skills.

We recommend these German artists:

Von Wegen Lisbeth, AnnenMayKantereit, Felix Kramer, Schnipo Schranke, njelk, F.S.K., Die Fantastischen Vier, Stereo Total, Mark Forster, Apache 207, Nena, Seeed



TV AND MOVIES

Watching TV shows and movies can be helpful to learn pronunciation, vocabulary and culture. Use the Chrome extension **Netflix Dual subtitle for learning languages** to watch Netflix with both English and German subtitles.

Some German-language series available on Netflix include: **The Empress, Biohackers, Dark, Babylon Berlin, Kleo, Dark** and **How to Sell Drugs Online Fast**. Older shows include **Tatort** and **Raumpatrouille** (available on Youtube). **Extr@ auf Deutsch** is a TV show designed for language learners that is free on Youtube.

You should also watch movies such as **Goodbye Lenin!, I'm Your Man, Transit** or **The Lives of Others**.

PODCASTS

Coffee Break German has half-hour episodes focusing on German cultural topics with grammar lessons throughout.

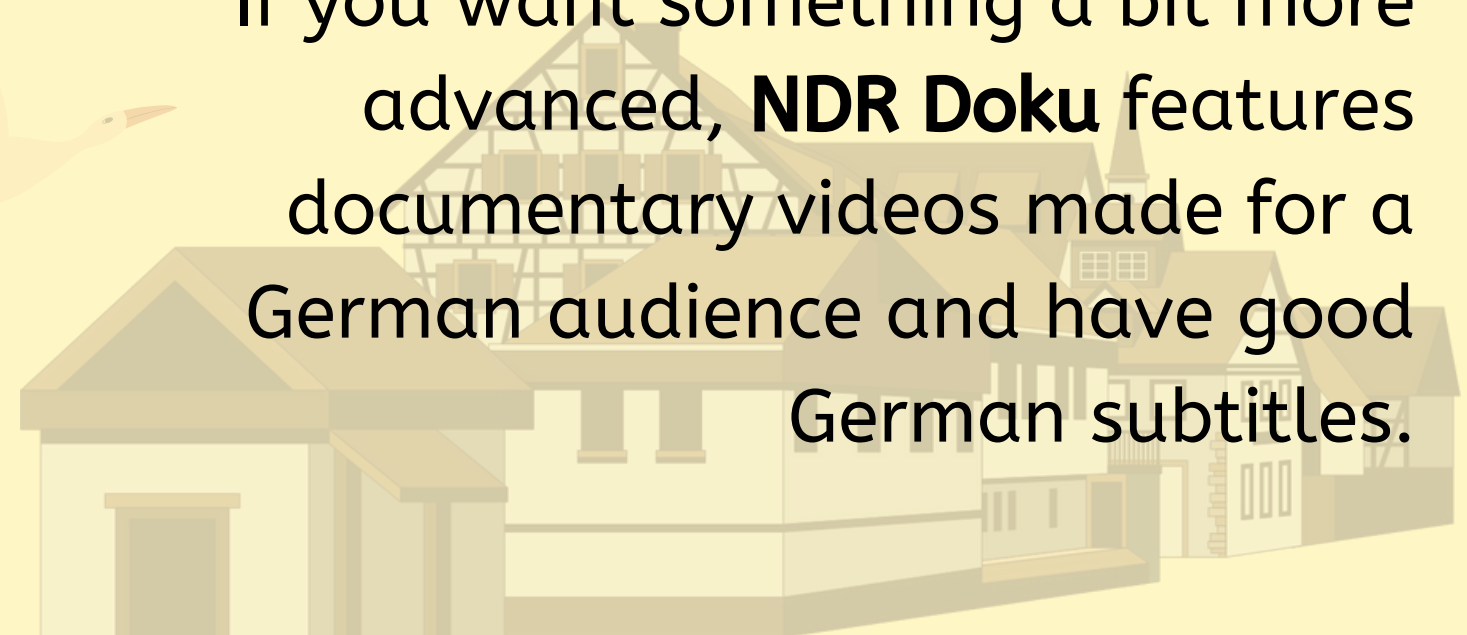
News in Slow German is a great way to catch up on German current affairs while studying.

Language Transfer German is a free audio-course that focuses on active thinking and using your existing language skills to problem solve the German language.

YOUTUBE

Youtube channels such as **Easy German, YourGermanTeacher, Learn German, German with Laura, Elyse Speaks** and the **Deutsch lernen mit der DW A1/A2** series are also useful.

If you want something a bit more advanced, **NDR Doku** features documentary videos made for a German audience and have good German subtitles.




WHERE TO START WITH GRAMMAR


German's complicated grammar and long words can seem intimidating at first, and the wealth of online resources can be overwhelming to a beginning learner. Depending on your learning style, you may prefer to start with the chronological structure of a textbook (such as those provided on **schubert-verlag.de**, or the physical textbooks **Aspekte Neu**), or with videos and music to get used to the sounds of a new language

Unlike English, German is a phonetic language, so once you get the basics down, pronunciation is easy. And while English speakers can begin to understand written German relatively quickly due to their similarities, in order to start constructing complex sentences you will need to practice grammar essentials such as **gender**, **declensions**, and **word order**.

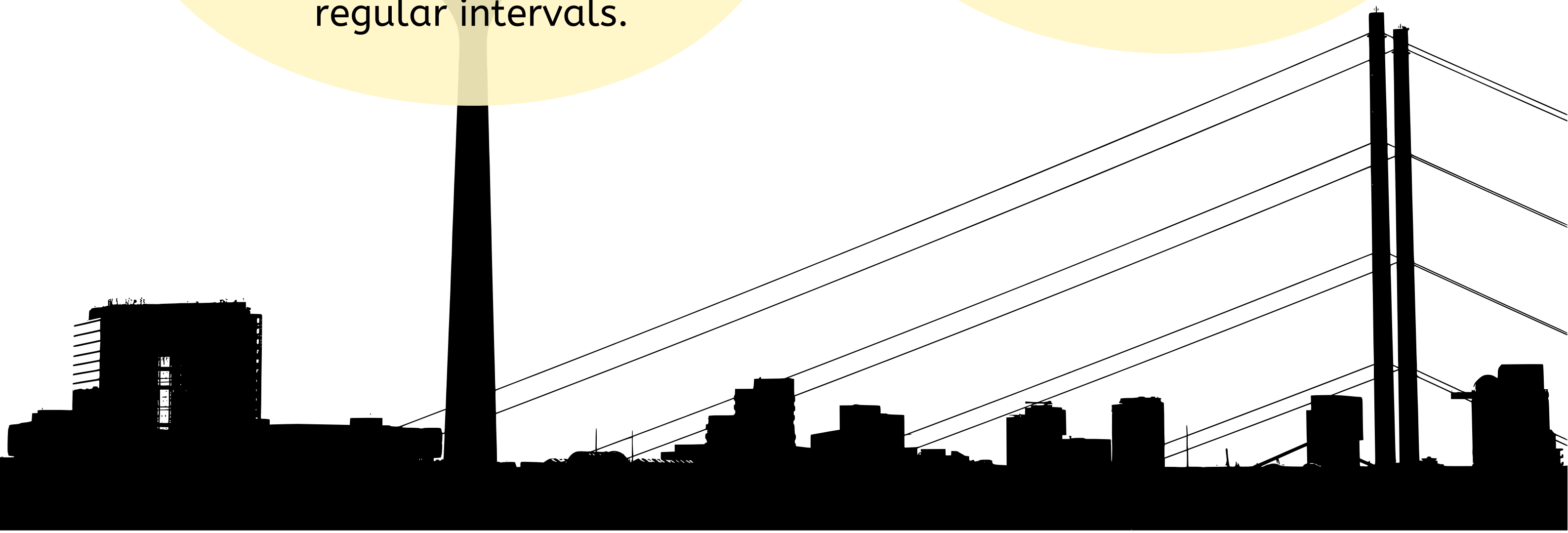
You can move onto **past tense**, **cases**, **pronouns** and more advanced reading and listening later on.



You can use physical flashcards or online flashcard websites like **Anki** and **Quizlet** to practice vocabulary. For this method to work, it is best to do spaced repetition ie using your flashcards at regular intervals.

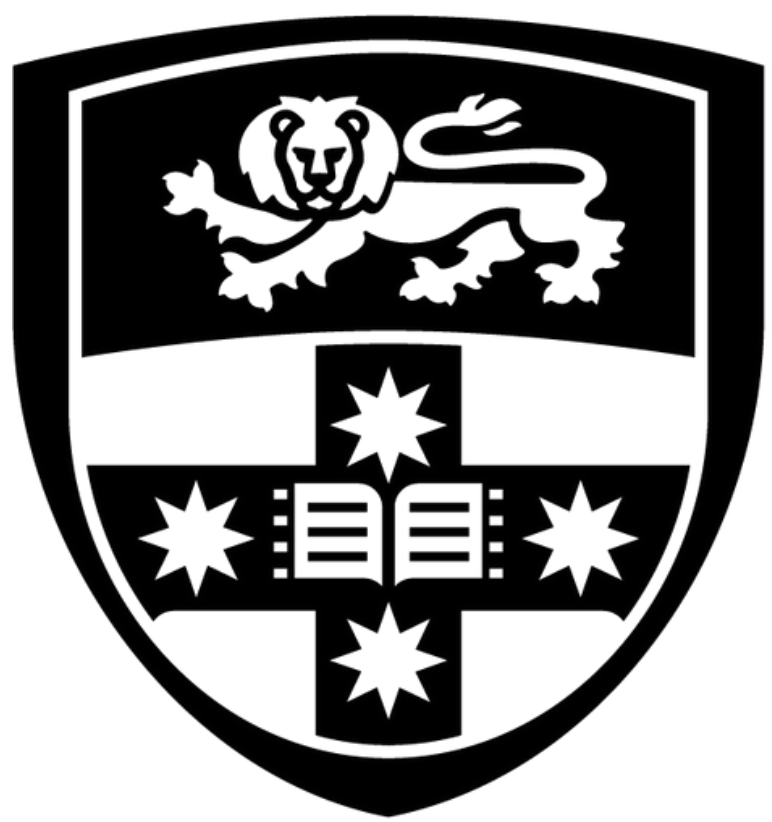


Some learners find it useful to focus on memorising the **1000 most common German words**, whereas others find it useful to make flashcards of the words they don't know as they come across them when reading, listening etc.



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