

GERMAN A1 · ABSOLUTE BEGINNER

German A1 Syllabus

All 14 units of the A1 course, week by week: what you learn, what you can do at the end, and how we teach it.

German Notes

germannotes.org

Free to download, print and share for your own study.
Live online classes, small batches, speaking from day one.

What is the German A1 course?

Perfect if you have never studied German. Learn German A1 vocabulary (Wortschatz) and grammar (Grammatik) from scratch: alphabet, pronunciation, numbers, colours, and the basics of everyday conversation. By the end, you will be able to introduce yourself, ask for directions, and understand simple signs.

This is intensive: 8 weeks, not 8 months. Expect live class time plus homework between sessions; the students who see the fastest progress are the ones who review vocabulary daily, even for 10 minutes. If your schedule is tighter, a semi-intensive pace covering the same 14 units over a longer timeline may suit you better, so ask us during your placement test.

At a glance

Level	A1 (CEFR): Absolute Beginner
Duration	8 weeks, 14 units in 2 parts (A1.1 and A1.2)
Weekday batch	Monday to Friday, 2.5 hours per class, 100 hours in total
Weekend batch	Saturday and Sunday, 4 hours per class, 64 hours in total
Class size	Small batches, live online with a teacher
Exam	Prepares you for the Goethe-Zertifikat A1 (Start Deutsch 1)

Why we don't just follow a syllabus

Every batch is different. Some students pick up grammar fast but freeze when asked to speak; others speak confidently with a few mistakes but overthink every sentence when writing. We teach the same 14 units to everyone, but how much time we spend on each one, and how we explain it, depends on what the room actually needs. A syllabus tells you what to cover. It doesn't tell you how a specific group of students learns.

How we teach A1

SPEAKING STARTS IN CLASS, NOT AFTER.

Most courses teach grammar and vocabulary first, then add speaking at the end. We have you use new words and structures out loud in the same class you learn them. You're not waiting weeks to finally speak.

YOU WRITE BEFORE YOU SPEAK.

Short answers and dialogues are easier than speaking cold. You write something first, then say it out loud. By the time you're speaking, you've already built the sentence once.

YOU THINK IN GERMAN FROM WEEK ONE.

Translating in your head is slow and makes you sound hesitant. From the start, instructions and practice happen in simple German. Your brain learns the language directly instead of running it through English first.

SMALL CLASSES SO YOU ACTUALLY HAVE TO SPEAK.

In a class of 40, it's easy to sit quiet. We cap our batches at 12 so everyone gets called on, corrected, and heard in every session.

The full A1 syllabus

A1.1 | Weeks 1-4

1

Introductions

Greetings, saying your name, spelling it out loud, where you're from, filling out forms.

2

Alphabet and pronunciation

Counting, telling time, dates.

3

Family

Family vocabulary, describing people, possessive articles (mein, dein, sein).

4

Home and objects

Rooms, items, colors, articles (der, die, das).

5

Daily routine

Everyday verbs, present tense, German word order.

6

Food and ordering

Restaurant vocabulary, ordering, saying what you like.

7

Shopping

Prices, sizes, clothing vocabulary.

A1.2 | Weeks 5-8

8

Directions and transport

Asking for directions, public transport, prepositions.

9

Work and schedule

Talking about jobs and your day, separable verbs.

10

Health

Body parts, describing how you feel, modal verbs (können, müssen).

11

Free time

Hobbies, making plans, talking about weekends.

12

Weather and small talk

Seasons, everyday conversation.

13

Travel and booking

Booking a room, introduction to past tense.

14

Full conversations

Putting everything together, ready for A2.

By the end of A1 you will be able to

- + Introduce yourself, ask and answer basic personal questions, and hold a short first conversation with a stranger.
- + Order food, shop, ask for directions, and get through everyday situations without switching to English.
- + Talk about your daily routine, your work, your family, and your weekend in simple, correct sentences.
- + Understand simple signs, short written messages, and slow, clear spoken German, and be genuinely ready to start A2.

Grammar in the A1 course

Unit	Grammar topics
Unit 1	The Verb Sein (To Be); Personal Pronouns; Asking Questions
Unit 2	Numbers and Time; Ordinal Numbers and Dates
Unit 3	Possessive Articles; Possessive Articles: Nominative and Accusative Cases
Unit 4	Articles: der, die, das
Unit 5	Verb Conjugation (Present Tense); Sentence Structure: The Verb Is Always in Position 2
Unit 6	Accusative Case; Verb Conjugation: helfen, mögen, werden
Unit 7	Articles as Pronouns: Welcher and Dieser; Dative Verbs: gefallen, gehören, passen, schmecken
Unit 8	Imperative: Commands and Instructions; Place Prepositions: Wo? and Wohin?; Prepositions with Dative: mit
Unit 9	Separable Verbs; Time Expressions: für, vor, seit, bis, ab, nach, bei; Job Words: -in (Feminine Forms)
Unit 10	Modal Verbs: möchte, können, wollen, müssen; Modal Verbs: müssen, dürfen, sollen
Unit 11	Past Tense: sein and haben (war, hatte); Comparison: gut, gern, viel (Comparative and Superlative)
Unit 12	The German Pronoun Man
Unit 13	Introduction to Past Tense (Perfekt); Polite German Requests: Könntest / Würdest
Unit 14	Pronoun Cases: Nominative, Dative, Accusative; Conjunction Denn

Every topic has a free lesson with tables and practice at germannotes.org/courses/a1/grammar.

Ready to start German A1?

Join a live A1 batch at germannotes.org/enroll, or take the free placement test at germannotes.org/assessment first.