

GERMAN BEGINNERS - A1.2

Course Description and Learning Objectives

This course is intended for students who already have some knowledge of the German language, whether formally in a classroom setting (e.g. through attendance of GERMAN BEGINNERS or approximately 30 hours of instruction) or informally via travel, family, etc.

In this course previous knowledge will first be revised and consolidated, then deepened and expanded in accordance with the level of the participants.

By the end of the course students will be able to

- express basic aspects of their work
- understand and use sentences in a technical context
- communicate in simple and routine situations by email and phone
- describe their immediate environment and matters in areas of immediate need
- present biographical details and talk about their career progress
- describe and provide explanations for their personal plans, hopes and aims

The learning objectives are achieved in a step-by-step process through an inductive and communicative teaching approach that addresses the complete spectrum of language abilities. Exercises become progressively more complex and generally train specific abilities like listening comprehension, speaking, reading comprehension, or writing. Classroom activities include individual and group work and are complemented by homework exercises.



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Communicative Objectives:

- Describing a person
- shopping: food and drinks, dialogues in a shop (groceries, fruit and vegetables etc.)
- at the coffeehouse: ordering food and drinks (expressing preferences); sports
- work: career aspirations and plans
- house: moving, furnishing, working at the house
- rules and prohibitions
- drawing comparisons
- weather
- Travel (to cities and countries/regions): describing landscapes, reading advertisements
- express preferences and wishes, write postcards from a holiday
- plan a weekend, organise a sightseeing tour, plan for a friend's visit
- Events: making suggestions, making appointments, accepting/refusing an offer, making agreements
- celebrations and holidays: congratulations, presents; family and childhood memories
- The human body and health: body parts, illnesses, doctor's visit, accident, hospital

Grammar Objectives:

- perfect tense; past tense of „haben“ und „sein“
- verb „werden“; modal verbs
- imperative; subjunctive II: könnte, sollte, würde (expressing wishes)
- prepositions „mit“, „ohne“; two-way prepositions with dative and accusative; temporal prepositions
- personal pronouns in nominative and accusative
- possessive articles: nominative, accusative, dative
- comparisons: comparative and superlative
- adjective declension (nominative, accusative and dative): definite, indefinite and without article
- conjunctions „denn“ / „weil“; „deshalb“
- ordinal numbers



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Course materials:

Course materials are especially compiled for the course and distributed by the teacher. Elementary knowledge of German in all four skills (Reading, Listening, Speaking, Writing) will be provided based on the following books:

Specht, Franz et. al. (2012): Menschen A1. Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch. München: Hueber Verlag.

Specht, Franz et. al. (2013): Menschen A2. Deutsch als Fremdsprache. Kurs- und Arbeitsbuch. München: Hueber Verlag. (Kap. 1-9)

Jin, Friederike & Voß, Ute (2013): Grammatik aktiv. Sprachniveau A1-B1. München: Cornelsen Verlag.

Further grammar books and workbooks may be specified in the course.

Supplemental materials

Current audio and film material, some authentic material (literary texts extracts, articles from newspapers and magazines), and material specifically developed for the course.

The purchase of a German dictionary is advisable.

About the tutor:

Isabel Thomas is a native speaker with a MA degree in German as a Foreign language and German Literature & Culture. She has been a language assistant at Trinity College Dublin, Dublin City University and is a translator, tester and tutor of Business German for a language agency. She also has been editor for a renowned German research institution as well as a major regional publishing house.

