



IO1: DIGITALER WERKZEUGE ZUM LERNEN UND ERWEITERN DER
KENNTNISSE DER DEUTSCHEN KENNTNISSE



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Application

There are multiple applications available for learning the German language out of which we chose 16 for our more intense research. Many applications (6) also have a learning platform as an alternative, meaning that both of these tool categories overlap a lot of the time. About half of the applications found (7) are general language learning platforms meaning that you can learn many other languages next to German.

The rest of the tools found are dedicated for German language learners only, some especially dedicated to refugees newly arriving in the country. Therefore, a lot of the applications have a special focus on not only learning German but also on learning about German culture bureaucracy or residence permit application procedures, that are essential for living in Germany. For those who do not have a phone or a tablet available, the learning platform version of some of the apps can be used as an easy and handy alternative. Apps have in our opinion the huge plus point that they mostly train all four disciplines (speaking, reading, listening, writing) at the same time by providing different sort of exercises. Five of them are for beginner only and only one of them can also be operated by teachers. Overall the application category is our biggest tool category.

Learning Platform

As mentioned above, most learning platforms are also available as an application. Six out of eight sources found during our research are an application as well. Therefore, this category doesn't only include new sources as some of them were already mentioned in the application section above. The other two are learning platforms dedicated to the German language only while one called *Seedlang* is available in German and English and the other called *Ich will Deutsch lernen* in 19 languages including German. Both are available for beginners to advanced German language learners. On top of that *Ich will Deutsch lernen* also includes an operation tool that can be used by teachers.

Website

This category is our second biggest tool category, together with the Online Schools, with fifteen sources found. Most of the websites are difficult to separate from blogs and are often developed by private persons sharing their knowledge and expertise from language learning and language teaching. A big plus point of this tool category is that many websites also offer or include materials like videos or grammar sheets that can be used by language teachers during their language lessons as well. All websites are available for language learners of different levels. Many websites are on top of that, not clearly divided by levels according to CEFR but sorted by different topics and mostly in easy language. Sometimes more difficult sections are marked with "advanced". All websites are free to use.

Blog

As mentioned above most of the sources found in this category were difficult to differ from blogs, which resulted in most sources being categorized as a website leaving only two sources as being clearly categorized as a blog. Both sources defined as blogs were developed by private people and offer learning material for both language learners and language teachers. Both sources are written in German and dedicated to German language learning only. The source *Deutschlernblog* offers tools for different learning levels and various forms of exercises for practicing different disciplines such as speaking, reading, listening and writing. The tool *Deutschwortschatz* on the other hand offers all its content in simple language and is more an additional tool to language learning than for language learning only as it mainly explains words that are seen as "very German" and often difficult to explain in other languages.

Video/YouTube Channel

We decided to combine these two categories as the videos found by us during our research are mostly part of a YouTube channel dedicated to teaching German as a foreign language only. This category also appeared to be a very popular tool for language learning as well as language teaching. There are just as many YouTube channels/ learning videos as applications for learning German. Most of them have about 500 videos available on their channels and are teaching German through different topics (ex. going to the supermarket or citizen office) or different grammar explanations. Most of them are available in German and English or in German with English subtitles. We discovered that this tool category also offers the possibility of videos being used by language teachers during their language courses or as additional material for students to support their language lessons. It also seems like a very useful tool being used as a support to an application or learning platforms as those tools often lack a good grammar explanation. All YouTube Channels are free to use. Obviously there is no need to log in.

Podcast

In this category we found two sources during our research that were podcast only. Although it is not to forget that many websites also use podcast style tools that can be found on websites but are not a podcast only category. Both sources found are available in German and English and for German language training only. This category trains listening only although one is sometimes asked to repeat parts out loud however the answer is not recorded or tracked in any way. All Podcasts found are free to use.

E-Books

As for e-books we could not find any sources that were dedicated to learning the German language only. E-books do not seem to be a very popular tool used to learn German, especially compared to the huge variety of applications and websites available that also offer the possibility to read and listen to texts or stories.

Online School

As every refugee in Germany has to absolve an integration course, including German classes, online schools are very hard to find, assuming that they are not needed as much as tools that are supportive to general language classes. Nevertheless, we found a total of 15 online schools, most of whom are dedicated to learning the German language only. None of the online schools found were free to use. Moreover, most of them are very expensive and you are always required to log in. On top of that, the biggest part is dedicated to absolute beginners learning German, around level A1.

We can conclude that there is a wide variety of sources and tools available to learn the German language both to be used by learners and teachers. Many of the tools found during our research are especially designed to learn/teach the German language only. On top of that it appears that websites, YouTube channels and applications and/or Learning platforms are the most popular tools used for language learning or at least the most popular tools provided for language learning.