Transitioning to AS Level German





This is a guide for pupils to practice their language skills through the medium of German for the purpose of transitioning to AS content with their teachers.

**Reference Recommendations**

You have to  a dictionary!

A good dictionary is essential whether you are keeping your language skills on the boil or learning new vocabulary, in a book format or on-line. These are just some of the ones that most teachers recommend, are user-friendly and will help you when you start you’re a A-Level course properly. Get to know the way they work and how best to use them to help you!

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| https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/417Pjd-xxbL._SX379_BO1,204,203,200_.jpg | **The Collins German Dictionary**  The world's leading German to English and English to German bilingual dictionary, This ninth edition has been revised to include all the latest vocabulary from a wide range of fields, including new additions from the fields of the Internet, the environment and economics. Culture boxes explain the origins of phrases from literature, film and popular culture to aid translation and improve your understanding of German popular culture. Acclaimed "Language in Use" supplement contains hundreds of examples of usage in real-life contexts such as essay writing, email and telephone conversations to help you use German fluently and naturally. \* Includes detailed colour maps of the English and German-speaking worlds. |
| **On-line dictionary**    **[www.linguee.com](http://www.linguee.com)**  English Dictionary and Translation Search with 1000000000 example sentences from human translators. Languages: English, German, French, Spanish. |  |
|  | Free online dictionaries - Spanish, French, Italian, German and more. Conjugations, audio pronunciations and forums for your questions. |

**Movie Recommendations for pleasure**

Watching films in the German language will really help with your listening skills and keep your knowledge of vocabulary and syntax on the boil. Don’t worry if you don’t know what is being said, that it goes really fast or that you may only know a few words of vocabulary. (That is what subtitles are for)! What you will be doing however, is training your ear to get used to the flow and rhythm of the language and getting used to different voices and German accents! By the time you get to the AS course film selected by your teacher, you will be used to the medium and good to go!

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| Cover art | **Good Bye Lenin**  Year released: 2003  Rating: 15  Duration: 2h1m  Genre: Comedy / Drama  Synopsis:  In 1990, to protect his fragile mother from a fatal shock after a long coma, a young man must keep her from learning that her beloved nation of East Germany as she knew it has disappeared.  You can watch this film on  https://cdn.arstechnica.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Google-Play-card.jpg |
| Senta Berger, Heiner Lauterbach, Elyas M'Barek, Florian David Fitz, Palina Rojinski, and Eric Kabongo in Willkommen bei den Hartmanns (2016) | **Willkommen bei der Hartmanns ( Welcome to Germany)**  Year released: 2016  Rating: GUIDANCE (PG)  Duration: 1h56m  Genre: Comedy/Drama  Synopsis:  A well-off Munich family offers boarding to a refugee. Diallo from Nigeria soon makes friends among the family members, but they are tested when they have to face racism, bureaucracy and terror suspicions because of him.  You can watch this film on  Image result for amazon prime |
| Justus von Dohnányi and Alicia von Rittberg in Charité (2017) | **Charité**  Year released: 2017-2020  Rating: TEEN (12)  Duration: 45 min Episodes ( 3 Seasons)  Image result for netflixGenre: Drama  Synopsis:  The series describes the accomplishments of several famous German physicians and scientists at the prestigious Charité hospital in Berlin towards the end of the 19th century..  You can watch this film on |
| See the source image | **Nailed It! Germany**  Year released: 2020  Rating: GUIDANCE (PG)  Duration: 1 season, 6 episodes, 34m  Genre: Food & Travel TV  Synopsis:  Home cooks try -- and inevitably fail -- to re-create spectacular confections on this comical competition show, all for a sweet 5,000 euros..  Image result for netflixYou can watch this film on : |

**Developing Listening Skills**

As with watching movies, listening to the radio or podcasts in German will also help develop your listening skills and keep your knowledge of vocabulary and syntax on the boil. Again, please don’t worry if you don’t know what is being said, that it goes really fast or that you may only know a few words of vocabulary. You are still training your ear to get used to the flow and rhythm of the language and getting used to different voices and German accents! Do this every day and the AS course listening exercises will seem slower in comparison!! 😊

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|  | Sign up to [www.lyricstraining.com](http://www.lyricstraining.com) and listen to German music and complete the online gap fill activities. |
| See the source image | [www.dw.com/en/learn-german/s-2469](http://www.dw.com/en/learn-german/s-2469)  With Deutsche Welle's online offer it is not only easy but also entertaining to learn German. They also offer **Langsame gesprochene Nachrichten** , where you can listen to current news items played at a slower speed with transcripts. [www.dw.com/de/29042020-langsam-gesprochene-nachrichten/a-53277963](http://www.dw.com/de/29042020-langsam-gesprochene-nachrichten/a-53277963) |
| See the source image | LISTEN TO THE RADIO! <https://www1.wdr.de/index.html>  The great thing about listening to the radio is that you can listen and do something else at the same time. Listen live using WDR where you can choose your station Remember, this is German radio for the Germa so it will go quickly, just try to pick out some words for fun - even if it is just the weather! |
|  | **Four reasons to learn a new language**  English is fast becoming the world's universal language, and instant translation technology is improving every year. So why bother learning a foreign language? Linguist and Columbia professor John McWhorter shares four alluring benefits of learning an unfamiliar tongue. |
|  | **Breaking the language barrier | Tim Doner | TEDxTeen**  Watch the video in which Tim Doner shared his experience of learning many languages to illuminate the objectives of learning languages and how to reach the goals. |

**Developing Reading Skills**

When you are reading French (article or book), you don’t need to look up every word as it would take a long time to get through! Skimming and scanning the text to get the gist works just as well and will be far more pleasurable! Use the context, cognates, pictures and your literacy skills to work out what the article is about. Give yourself a target number of new new words to add to your vocabulary list. Ideally you could also find a synonym or an antonym for the new words you learn. This way you would be doubling or even tripling your range of vocabulary!😊

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| See the source image | [www.planet-wissen.de/index.html](http://www.planet-wissen.de/index.html)  This site offers a wealth of articles and videos on a variety of topics and themes. |
| See the source image | Mary Glasgow publications publish 4 magazines for French learners ranging from beginners to GCSE (Schuss) Check with your language teachers if you have a code to access to the magazine online. |
| See the source image | [www.goethe.de/ins/us/saf/prj/stg/enindex.htm](http://www.goethe.de/ins/us/saf/prj/stg/enindex.htm)  In cooperation with Deutsche Welle **Step into German** is turning up the volume and presents “Music Made in Germany”. Little Gems – The best commercials. Most of the time TV-ads make you want to change channels or press mute. But if you take a closer look you can discover little gems. Little Gems – The best commercials. |
| See the source image | Why not have a go at reading a foreign language newspaper – Spiegel is available in larger paper shops. Speigel has its own website [www.spiegel.de/](http://www.spiegel.de/) so that you can read the paper online. You do not have to read the paper cover to cover, just scan the headlines and pick out ONE article that grabs your attention. |

**Developing your Grammar**

Part of your skill set is of course developing your knowledge of the French language. There are some fun on-line grammar sites that can help you keep your grammar going during your this transition time.

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|  | <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z4cv7nb>  BBC bitesize again have grammar sections under each examination board. These have clear explanations and some exercises to remind you of key grammatical points. Further practice can then be had on the websites below. |
|  | [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk)  This a very helpful online grammar practice website. You are able to choose the tense you want to revise, read the explanations and complete the exercises. You can do these as often as you like and it gives you a percentage. |
|  | This website is free after 4pm. It has a really helpful A level section where you are able to watch news video clips, find theme related vocabulary and do listening and reading comprehensions as well as grammar exercises.  <http://zut.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html> |

**Developing knowledge through your research skills**

Your research skills will come into the fore as this is an ideal opportunity to get to know about German and German speaking countries, for example, the regional culture and heritage in German, German-speaking countries and communities. Choose a region of Germany , Austria or Switzerland and compile a fact-file or start a presentation for your fellow students. You can do this research both in English or German. As this is part of the course of study, the more customs and traditions that you are able to refer to and the richer your knowledge, the better! Your teachers will probably refer you to information and websites, as it is easy to get overwhelmed, however, below are some ideas to get you started.

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| See the source image | BBC has a wealth of information. This link will take you through to a profile on Germany <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17299607> |
| Germany in Europe Programmes looking at the challenges facing modern Germany and providing context. | <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p011ky0f>  These programmes look at a range of issues including history, politics and cultural issues affecting Modern Germany. |
| See the source image | <https://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/spr/unt/kum/dfj/alv.html>  Through this link students can find useful links to German-language websites on subjects relating to German society and culture. The topics are chosen with reference to the UK exam boards' specifications, and their aim is to provide fast access to websites which are well-presented and up-to-da |

**Keeping it Fresh…**

It is important to keep the knowledge you have gained at GCSE fresh in your mind ready to start your A levels in September.

Why not spend some time looking over some past papers and using the mark schemes to assess how well you’ve done.

German GCSE – Past Papers and Marking Schemes:

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/german-gcse#tab_pastpapers>