

German Course Curriculum

Level A1.1 — Adults

Coursebook: Menschen A1.1 (Hueber Verlag)

Course overview

Level	A1.1 (the first half of level A1)
Coursebook	Menschen A1.1 (Hueber Verlag)
For	Adults
Content	12 lessons (Lektionen 1–12) in 4 modules, plus a review section after each module
Contact hours	40–60 hours with the teacher
Format	Online via Zoom, or in person in Da Nang
Prior knowledge	None — this is the starting level
Tests	A test at the end of every lesson, done at home and corrected together in class

How we teach

- Every lesson is taught by a native German speaker.
- The main focus is speaking. Students speak in every lesson, starting with the very first one.
- Grammar and vocabulary are taught to support speaking, not to replace it.
- Students also learn about everyday life and culture in Switzerland and Germany.

How to read this curriculum

- The hours shown are lesson time with the teacher. Homework, vocabulary practice and revision come on top of this — normally around 30–50% extra.
- The hours are given as a range because progress depends on previous language experience, how much time you can put into homework, and how regularly you attend.
- Adults with experience of another foreign language usually move through the first lessons quickly and slow down once the cases and the past tense arrive.

How long does A1.1 take?

Because students study different amounts per week, here is the same course expressed as calendar time:

Lesson hours per week	Time to complete A1.1
2 hours	approx. 5–7 months
3 hours	approx. 3–5 months
4 hours	approx. 2.5–3.5 months
6 hours	approx. 1.5–2.5 months

Consistency matters more than speed

Learning a language is a long process, not a short course. What matters most is not how many hours a student books, but how regularly they attend and practise. A student who studies two hours a week without fail will overtake a student who studies six hours a week and then disappears for a month. The times above assume steady attendance and homework completed between lessons.

Tests and review

- Every lesson in Menschen ends with a test in the coursebook. You do it at home, and we go through it together in the following class.
- After every module — every three lessons — there is a review section covering the grammar and vocabulary of that module.
- There are no separate in-class exams at this level. Your progress is followed through the lesson tests, the module reviews, and direct feedback during the lesson.

Lesson-by-lesson plan

Module 1 — Lessons 1–3

Lesson	Vocabulary	Grammar	After this lesson you can...
Lesson 1: Hallo! Ich bin Nicole ... <i>Hello! I'm Nicole ...</i> Topic: Greetings; asking how someone is 3–4 hours <i>Lesson test, done at home</i>	• Countries • The alphabet	• Present tense, singular forms: ich heiße, du heißt • Questions with question words: Woher ...? Wie ...?	• greet someone and say goodbye • ask how someone is and answer • introduce yourself and other people • say where you come from • spell your name
Lesson 2: Ich bin Journalistin. <i>I'm a journalist.</i> Topic: Personal details and jobs 3–4 hours <i>Lesson test, done at home</i>	• Jobs • Marital status • Numbers 1–100	• Present tense, singular and plural: haben, sein, arbeiten • Negation with nicht • Word formation: the -in ending for feminine job titles	• talk about your job and give personal details • say what you are not • read a business card and an online profile • write a short profile about yourself
Lesson 3: Das ist meine Mutter. <i>This is my mother.</i> Topic: Family 3–4 hours <i>Lesson test, done at home</i>	• Family • Languages	• Yes/no questions and the answers ja, nein and doch • The possessive articles mein and dein • Verbs with a vowel change: ich spreche – du sprichst	• talk about your family • say which languages you speak and how well • answer yes/no questions, including with doch • follow a scripted dialogue while listening and reading
Module review 1–3 hours	Review section: the grammar and vocabulary from Lessons 1–3 are revised and consolidated.		

Module 2 — Lessons 4–6

Lesson	Vocabulary	Grammar	After this lesson you can...
Lesson 4: Der Tisch ist schön! <i>The table is lovely!</i> Topic: Shopping and furniture 3–4 hours <i>Lesson test, done at home</i>	• Numbers 100–1,000,000 • Furniture • Adjectives	• The definite articles der, das and die • The personal pronouns er, es and sie	• ask for a price and say what something costs • say what you think of something • follow a sales conversation • offer someone help

Lesson	Vocabulary	Grammar	After this lesson you can...
Lesson 5: Was ist das? – Das ist ein F. <i>What's that? – That's an F.</i> Topic: Objects and products 3–4 hours <i>Lesson test, done at home</i>	- Colours - Everyday objects - Materials - Shapes	- The indefinite articles ein, ein and eine - The negative articles kein, kein and keine	- ask what something is called in German - ask someone to repeat something - describe an object - thank someone and respond - read product information and fill in a form
Lesson 6: Ich brauche kein Büro. <i>I don't need an office.</i> Topic: Office and technology 3–4 hours <i>Lesson test, done at home</i>	- The office - Computers and devices	- Singular and plural: ein Handy – drei Handys - The accusative case: Ich habe einen Laptop.	- make and take a phone call using standard phrases - say what you have and don't have - understand emails and text messages
Module review 1–3 hours	Review section: the grammar and vocabulary from Lessons 4–6 are revised and consolidated.		

Module 3 — Lessons 7–9

Lesson	Vocabulary	Grammar	After this lesson you can...
Lesson 7: Du kannst wirklich toll ...! <i>You're really good at ...!</i> Topic: Free time and compliments 3–4 hours <i>Lesson test, done at home</i>	Free-time activities	- The modal verb können - The verb bracket (Satzklammer): Du kannst super Gitarre spielen.	- pay someone a compliment - talk about hobbies and about what you can do - ask for something politely - thank someone
Lesson 8: Kein Problem. Ich habe Zeit! <i>No problem. I have time!</i> Topic: Free time and arranging to meet 3–4 hours <i>Lesson test, done at home</i>	- Times of day - Days of the week - Clock times - Free-time activities	- Position of the verb in the sentence: Heute Abend habe ich keine Zeit. - The time prepositions am and um	- arrange to meet someone - make a suggestion and react to one - read text messages and chat conversations - write an invitation or turn one down
Lesson 9: Ich möchte was essen, Onkel Harry. <i>I'd like something to eat, Uncle Harry.</i> Topic: Food and being invited to someone's home 3–4 hours <i>Lesson test, done at home</i>	Food and dishes	- The forms of mögen and möchte - Word formation: noun + noun, e.g. der Tomatensalat	- talk about your eating habits and what you like - offer and accept food and drink at the table - follow a conversation about food preferences
Module review 1–3 hours	Review section: the grammar and vocabulary from Lessons 7–9 are revised and consolidated.		

Module 4 — Lessons 10–12

Lesson	Vocabulary	Grammar	After this lesson you can...
Lesson 10: Ich steige jetzt in die U-Bahn ein. <i>I'm getting on the underground now.</i> Topic: Travel and transport 3–4 hours <i>Lesson test, done at home</i>	- Means of transport - Travel	Separable verbs: Ich rufe dich an.	- ask for travel information - understand announcements at a station or airport - end a phone call politely
Lesson 11: Was hast du heute gemacht? <i>What did you do today?</i> Topic: Daily routine and talking about the past 3–4 hours <i>Lesson test, done at home</i>	Everyday activities	- The present perfect (Perfekt) with haben - The time prepositions von ... bis and ab	- talk about what you did - read a calendar and an email - write a description of your day
Lesson 12: Was ist denn hier passiert? <i>What happened here?</i> Topic: Festivals and talking about the past 3–4 hours <i>Lesson test, done at home</i>	- Seasons - Months	- The present perfect (Perfekt) with sein - The time preposition im	- talk about festivals and trips you have made - understand interviews - read information texts
Module review 1–3 hours	Review section: the grammar and vocabulary from Lessons 10–12 are revised and consolidated.		

What you can do after A1.1

- Greet people, introduce yourself and others, and give personal information
- Talk about your job, your family and the languages you speak
- Ask for prices, go shopping and say what you think of something
- Describe an object: its colour, material and shape
- Handle a simple phone call and understand emails and text messages
- Talk about hobbies and about what you are able to do
- Arrange to meet, make suggestions, and write or decline an invitation
- Talk about food, and offer and accept food and drink
- Ask for travel information and understand announcements
- Talk about what you did in the past using the Perfekt
- Talk about festivals, seasons and months

Exams

- Menschen A1.1 and A1.2 together cover the complete A1 level. The matching exam is the Goethe-Zertifikat A1: Start Deutsch 1, the adult version of the A1 exam.
- Finishing A1.1 alone is not enough to sit the exam — you need to complete A1.2 as well.
- Exam preparation is a separate course and is not included in these hours.