

How To Keep Up Your German Over The Summer, During Your Rome Semester, Or If You Can't Take Upper Division Courses After Intermediate II

- **Reading**

- reading in German is the single best thing you can do to keep up your German – it reinforces and improves vocabulary as well as grammar structures (if you read attentively, that is ☺). It doesn't matter what you read as long as it is an authentic German text.
- when reading on your own, remember that the key is to focus on the general idea, not a word for word understanding. You don't need to translate the text in order to understand it. In fact, it would be way better to try to block out ALL English during your reading process and to try and just focus on what you can figure out in German. So, don't use a dictionary right away when you don't understand something. Underline the word and come back to it later if you need to.
- what matters most is that it's something you are interested in, otherwise you may not be motivated enough to plod through it and finish it ☺ Try using www.google.de or www.yahoo.de and type in a topic keyword (auf Deutsch natürlich) so that you'll only get sites on your topic of interest in German.
 - If you're interested in literature, try <http://gutenberg.spiegel.de/>. There's tons of German poems, short stories, fairy tales, novels, dramas etc. available online.
 - some good story collections, many bilingual, are available on Amazon.com: *Beginner's German Reader* [ISBN 0844221708]; *Short Stories in German / Erzählungen auf Deutsch* [ISBN 978-0140265422]; *Selected Folktales/Ausgewählte Märchen: A Dual-Language Book* [ISBN 978-0486424743]; *German Short Stories 1 and 2: Parallel Text Edition* (intermediate-advanced level texts)

- **Movies**

- watch German films! Best practice: watch them twice, first with English subtitles, then a second time without. That second time is crucial – you aren't really practicing German by watching a film with subtitles. Even native speakers who watch films with subtitles focus primarily on the subtitles rather than the spoken words. By watching films first with subtitles, then without, you will be better able to understand things the second time because you know what's going on, but you'll be forced to just listen if you can't read.
- Here are some lists with good German films:
 - The Best German Films for German-Learners: <http://german.about.com/library/weekly/aa011126b.htm>
 - Top Ten German Film: <http://worldfilm.about.com/od/germanfilms/tp/germanfilms.htm>
 - <http://www.amazon.com/best-German-films-all-time/lm/15CZ9II7NDVJ3>
 - German films submitted for the Academy Award (OSCAR) for Best Foreign Language Film: http://www.german-films.de/app/filmarchive/oscar_features.php

- **German news /videocasts online**

- Deutsche Welle: <http://www.dw-world.de>
- DW Top-Thema mit Vokabeln: <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/0,2142,8031,00.html>
- Tagesschau (daily news): <http://www.tagesschau.de/>
- ARD Tagesschau: <http://www.ardmediathek.de/ard/servlet/>
- ZDF heute (daily news) <http://podcast.heute.de/heute-audio.xml>

- **Other Podcasts**

- Das treffende Wort: <http://german.lss.wisc.edu/podcast/feed.xml> . Five informal lessons with downloadable worksheets for beginning German created by members of the German dept. of the University of Wisconsin.
- Deutsch im Alltag: http://rss-dw-world.de/sml/podcast_alltagsdeutsch documentaries on variety of topics with accompanying audio scripts.
- <http://german-podcast.de/> podcast for learning German.
- Young Germany Deutsch: http://www.young-germany.de/nbo_podcast/ygpod.xml “starter kit” for beginners and introduction to most important German phrases with listening and speaking exercises.
- Sportstudio: <http://www.zdf.de/ZDFmediathek/content/440294?view=podcast>: video highlights from the ZDF sports show, appropriate for all German soccer fans but also includes other sports feed
- Musik: <http://www.fourserve.com/podcast/podcast.xml> includes interviews, information, and clips about popular music from Germany.
- Kalenderblatt: http://rss.dw-world.de/xml/podcast_kalenderblatt: from Deutsche Welle, with short notes on historical events or personalities presented by different (sometimes renowned) speakers.

- **Online courses or study materials for learning German:**

- <http://www.dw-world.de/dw/0,,9571,00.html>
- <http://www.deutsch-lernen.com/>
- <http://www.mylanguageexchange.com/> (find a German partner who is learning English so you both practice your second language)
- <http://german.about.com/library/blgrammatik.htm> (German grammar explanations with links to self-tests)
- <http://web.wm.edu/modlang/gasmit/grammar/pronmnu.htm> (Grammar explanations with practice exercises)
- <http://www.german-grammar.de/> (Grammar, short texts, songs, etc.)
- <http://www.learn-german-online.net/> (lots of further links and suggestions)
- <http://www.learn-german-online.net/learning-german-resouces/musik.htm> (annotated links about Music, as well as learning German sites and other cultural information. Site available in German and English)
- <http://www.witz.de/> (Great collection of jokes, arranged by topic. Check'em out and try to laugh in German)

- **Video games**

- some video games like SIMS allows you to install the software in a language other than English. Select German and play in German!