

Elise's big list of (good) German things

Learning Resources

Resources intended for English speakers who are learning German. A bit limited since I learn almost exclusively by immersion except for using Anki for vocab and (at the beginning) podcasts for grammar fundamentals and quick phrases. Tell me if you find good ones! I'd love to expand the list to make it more useful to others (but only good ones).

Podcasts

- [Coffee Break German](#) (Where I started. Phrases + grammar explanations helpful for A1, it grows a bit with you but I left it for native content once I hit around A2)
- [Slow German mit Annik Rubens](#) (Great "starter" into German cultural topics)
- [News in Slow German](#) (It's all in German! No English even in the intro! Just slow.)

Websites + Online Resources

- [DW Learn German](#)
- Goethe Institut
- [Linguee dictionary](#) with context
- [Duden](#) (the German dictionary)
- [University of Michigan German Grammar resources](#) (super good)
- [University of Michigan German Vocabulary resources](#) (also great)

Vocabulary Lists + Resources for Flashcards/Anki

- Goethe Institut A1 – B1 vocabulary lists
 - [A1 List](#)
 - [A2 List](#)
 - [A3 List](#)
- [My "smart" German Anki template](#) (shameless plug for a free thing XD)
 - Detects noun gender based on article (der/die/das) + color-codes accordingly
 - Detects irregular verb forms based on deviation from regular rules + highlights
 - Automatically generates cloze deletions from example sentences (even for conjugated/declined forms)
- [My draft "starter deck" of 1000 German words](#) for Anki with pictures
 - mostly good, maybe some rare highlighting bugs, no audio files yet but you could use text-to-speech to add them. Built up from the Fluent Forever ~600 list with words I felt were missing when I tried to speak or later found out were very important and not represented in the list
- [4000 German Words by Frequency](#) for Anki
- [B1 Goethe list](#) (includes lots of simple words too) for Anki
 - I deleted the english-to-german cards to just get german to English

- [University of Michigan German Vocabulary](#)

Books (sorry, didn't use that many books to learn)

- Short Stories in German by Olly Richardson
- Hammer's German Grammar and Usage
 - the ultimate grammar book, it's fun to read through after learning a bit to finally understand "huh, okay *THAT'S* why it's that way!"
- Übungsgrammatik für die Mittelstufe aktuell by Axel Hering, Dr. Magdalena Matussek, and Dr. Michaela Perlmann-Balme
 - Monolingual grammar book with exercises great for B1-C1

Native Spoken Content

Spoken (not musical, not text) content made for German-speakers by German-speakers

Yellow highlight = my favorites

Shows + Movies

There are German dubs of TONS of kids shows and animes on Netflix but I tried to keep this to just originally-German stuff.

- Dark (Netflix) - Possibly my favorite TV series ever! Mystery/Thriller/Sci fi
- How to Sell Drugs Online (Fast) (Netflix) - Comedy/Drama/High school
- Barbaren (Netflix) - Roman-age historical docudrama about the Battle of Teutoburg Forest
- Babylon Berlin (Netflix) - Most expensive German show ever made. Pre-WW2 historical crime drama
- Altes Geld (Netflix) - Absurd and uncomfortable but great. Pure Austrian dark humor.
- Tribes of Europa (Netflix) - Post-apocalyptic dystopian sci-fi series that feels like YA dystopian fiction
- Wir sind die Welle (Netflix) - Drama series about a famous experiment that turned high schoolers fascist
- Dogs of Berlin (Netflix) - Mystery crime series exploring issues with right-wing extremism in Germany
- Biohackers (Netflix) - Suspenseful drama about a med student and a secret scientific conspiracy
- Freud (Netflix) - Austrian and super weird. But interesting at least?
- Der Sendung mit der Maus - A very famous German kids show if you like kids shows
- Türkisch für Anfänger - Popular comedy-drama about a German-Turkish family
- Goodbye, Lenin! - Amazing and touching comedy-drama about the fall of the Berlin Wall
- Der Untergang - A very good German WW2 film about the last days of the war
- The Lives of Others - A classic, about an East German agent spying on West Germans during the Cold War

- Werk Ohne Autor - Newer artsy film following an artist through the cold war
- Sarajevo - Docu-drama movie about the 1914 assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand
- Universum - Nature documentaries!
- Vincent Will Meer - Touching comedy-drama that's a bit hard to explain, but sweet
- FUNK, the digital media arm of 2 german public broadcasters, has a bunch of different series on all sorts of topics: <https://www.funk.net/channel/?sort=series>

YouTube Channels

I wrote a list of [10 German science youtube channels](#) for my blog previously if you like science!

Also, check out FUNK's list of supported channels: <https://www.funk.net/channel/>

- ZDF Magazin Royale - Germany's best late-night comedy. A great window on Germany's problems!
- Gute Nacht Österreich - Austrian late-night, sadly cancelled for political reasons. Good peek at Austria
- Kein Stress kochen
 - The best (imo) German-language cooking channel. Funny even if you hate cooking. Highly Austrian (but with good, and often funny, German-German subs)
- Mailab - Amazing science channel! The first German channel I really fell for
- Kurzgesagt - Also an amazing science channel, and it has beautiful visuals so it's good for beginners
- MrWissen2Go - The BEST German history, politics + current events channel(s, there's 2)
- Terra X Lesch&Co - Great astronomy/physics channel with good visuals
- Terra X - German TV documentaries on history and science
- Psychologeek - Psychology-focused channel with great simple explanations
- Quarks - Well-known German show with documentaries about science, society, and politics
- DIE DA OBEN! - A fun and well-explained politics show about German politics
- So Many Tabs - A show about the internet with lots of great visuals and jokes
- Coldmirror - proof that Germans are funny.
- Schuld & Sühne - true crime from the hosts of my favorite true crime podcast
- FUNK supports lots of YouTube channels: <https://www.funk.net/channel/>

Podcasts

- Geschichten aus der Geschichte.
 - A fun history podcast with funny or interesting stories from history
- Mordlust.
 - The best true crime! The two hosts have such a great best friends dynamic and really care about doing good thoughtful journalism
- Servus. Greuzi. Hallo.
 - The "trans-alpine" podcast of ZEIT in which 3 journalists from Austria, Germany, and Switzerland discuss their countries with each other. It's a great way to learn about the German-speaking world beyond Germany and hear different accents

- The German newspaper ZEIT makes a bunch of amazing podcasts: <https://www.zeit.de/podcasts>
- FUNK also supports lots of great podcasts: <https://www.funk.net/channel/>
- Woher weißt Du das? A science podcast from ZEIT
- Was jetzt? Straightforward news podcast from ZEIT to replace something like The Daily
- Lots of podcasts from DW: <https://www.dw.com/de/media-center/podcasts/s-100976>

Newspapers/Magazines

- ZEIT. German newspaper of record. Left-liberal, considered fancy/highbrow
- Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. Well-respected, classical liberal paper
- Süddeutsche Zeitung. Well-respected, progressive left paper out of München
- Der Spiegel. Famous journalistic magazine. Some say not as good anymore.
- Der Standard. Austrian newspaper of record. Progressive-left
- Die Presse. Austrian newspaper of record. Conservative.
- Wiener Zeitung. Austrian newspaper of record, one of the oldest papers in the world.
- Salzburger Nachrichten. Austrian newspaper of record. Conservative.
- Neue Zürcher Zeitung. The Swiss newspaper of record. Classical liberalism.

Music artists

Sorry there aren't descriptions for all of these artists. I figure you can give them a quick listen and find out if you like them or not!

Pop + indie + other newer stuff

- Bilderbuch. Fav song of theirs is "Bungalow"
- Falco
- Steiner & Madlania
- Element of Crime
- Bundtspecht
- Garish
- AnnenMayKantereit. I like "Jenny Jenny"
- Von Wegen Lisbeth
- Spaceman Spiff
- Fuzzman. "Für eine Handvoll Gras"
- Kid Kopphausen
- Gisbert zu Knyphausen
- Nils Kopprich
- Sportfreunde Stiller
- Fortuna Ehrenfeld
- Tocotronic
- KLANGSTEIN
- Sylvia Gerlach
- Faber

- Dota Kehr. "Rennrad" is good
- Elen. "Liegen ist Frieden"
- Düsseldorf Düsterboys
- Sara Lesch
- Sophie Hunger. "Walzer für Niemand"

Other

- Rammstein
- Max Raabe
- Reinhard May. Only song I know is "Über den Wolken" which is great
- Nena
- Udo Jürgens
- Kraftwerk
- Wir sind Helden

Super Austrian stuff (if you're ever curious what dialect sounds like... haha...)

- Der Nino aus Wien. Actually really good, not your typical Austropop schlager-style stuff.
- Hubert von Goisern
- Wolfgang Ambros
- Ostbahn-Kürti und die Chefpartei
- Rainhard Fendrich
- DJ Ötzi