Survey Report

Twenty-five people of different ages (20 to 42 years old) were surveyed, all with a common interest in mastering the German language. The purpose of this survey was to gain an in-depth understanding of the various aspects that influence German language learning.

Factors that motivate learners, the challenges they face, their preferences for learning resources, and how they use technology to facilitate their learning process were investigated.

This information will guide in identifying key trends and developing more effective strategies to support students on their path to fluency in German.

Summary of conclusion:

1. **Diverse Learner Demographics and Backgrounds:**
   - Surveyed individuals range from 20 to 42 years old, indicating a wide age spectrum.
   - Respondents come from various linguistic backgrounds including Spanish, Arabic, English, French, Latvian, Polish, Portuguese, and Urdu.
2. **Varied Motivations for Learning German:**
   - Work-Related: 88% (22 out of 25 respondents) are motivated by career opportunities.
   - Cultural Interest: 64% (16 out of 25) driven by a desire to understand German culture.
   - Educational Purposes and Socialization: Both factors influence 44% (11 out of 25).
3. **Levels and Duration of German Study:**
   - Majority at B2 level, showing a high intermediate proficiency.
   - Study Duration: 28% (7 out of 25) for 6-12 months, 24% (6 out of 25) for less than 6 months, and 1-2 years, indicating many are either beginners or beyond the initial learning phase.
4. **Time Dedicated to German Study:**
   - 48% (12 out of 25) study less than an hour weekly, suggesting a casual or time-constrained approach.

- ○ Others invest more time, with 24% (6 out of 25) for 1-3 hours, 12% (3 out of 25) for 4-6 hours, and another 12% (3 out of 25) for 7-10 hours, indicating varied commitment levels.

5. **Learning Challenges:**
   - ○ Grammar is a significant challenge for 68% (17 out of 25).
   - ○ Vocabulary and speaking fluency each pose challenges for over half of the respondents.

6. **Learning Resource Preferences:**
   - ○ Interactive content is highly valued by 72% (18 out of 25).
   - ○ Text and audio resources are preferred by 44% (11 out of 25), and video by 28% (7 out of 25).

7. **Progress Measurement and Practice Frequency:**
   - ○ Conversations with native speakers are key for 60% (15 out of 25).
   - ○ Regular practice varies, with 40% (10 out of 25) engaging weekly, and 24% (6 out of 25) daily.

8. **Cultural Context and Learning Methods:**
   - ○ 60% (15 out of 25) find cultural context very important.
   - ○ Immersion and media consumption are utilized by over half of the respondents for a more in-depth understanding.

9. **App Usage and Desired Features:**
   - ○ 64% (16 out of 25) use apps like Duolingo, DW, and Babbel.
   - ○ Desired app features include interactive exercises (47.8%, 11 out of 23 respondents), grammar explanations (60.9%, 14 out of 23), and pronunciation practice (34.8%, 8 out of 23).

The survey results reveal a diverse group of German learners, each with unique motivations and challenges. While technology plays a key role, there's a clear demand for a mix of traditional and modern learning methods, with a strong emphasis on interactive and culturally immersive experiences. Tailoring resources to effectively address grammar complexities, offer real-life speaking opportunities, and provide insights into German culture can significantly enhance the learning process. The data also highlights the need for flexible learning options to suit various schedules and learning paces.

Results in Detail:

Mother tongue of respondents:

- English, Arabic, French, Latvian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Urdu, and Arabic.

Motivation to learn German:

- Work: 22 (88%)
- Culture: 16 (64%)
- Education: 11 (44%)
- Socialization: 11 (44%)

Level of German:

According to these results, the majority of respondents are at the B2 level, indicating an upper-intermediate command of the language. This data can inform on the need for specific learning resources for different levels of proficiency in German.

- A1: 24%
- A2: 12%
- B1: 24%
- B2: 28%
- C1: 12%

How long have you been studying German?
25 respuestas

Less than 6 months
6-12 months
1-2 years
More than 2 years
More than 5 years
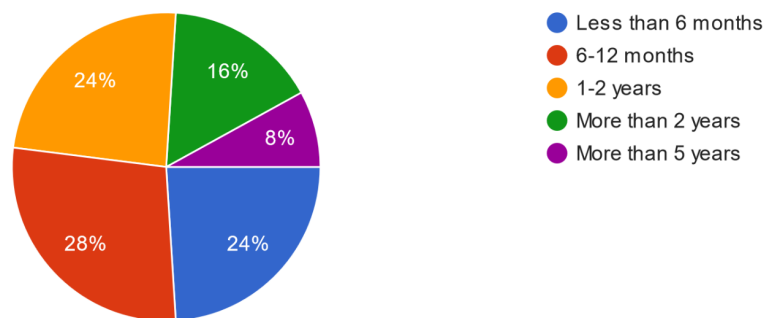
The pie chart shows the duration of German study among 25 respondents:

- Less than 6 months: 24%.
- 6-12 months: 28%
- 1-2 years: 24%
- More than 2 years: 16%

● More than 5 years: 8%

The majority of respondents have been studying German for 6-12 months, suggesting that there are many beginners or people who have passed the initial learning threshold. A smaller percentage have been studying for more than 5 years, which could indicate a long-term commitment to language learning or a more advanced level of proficiency.

How much time do you dedicate to learning German each week?
25 respuestas
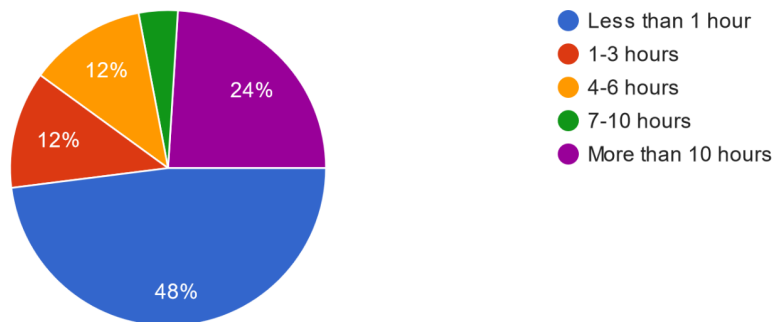
The graph shows the amount of time the 25 respondents spend learning German each week:

● Less than 1 hour: 48% of respondents.
● 1-3 hours: 24% of respondents.
● 4-6 hours: 12% of respondents.
● 7-10 hours: 12% of respondents.
● More than 10 hours: 4% of respondents.

The majority of respondents spend less than one hour per week studying German, which could indicate that they are occasional learners or have time constraints. A quarter of the respondents spend between 1 and 3 hours, while a smaller proportion spend more time on weekly language study. These data may be useful in understanding how learners manage their time for learning German and could indicate the need for flexible learning options that accommodate limited schedules.

What are the biggest challenges you face when learning German?

25 respuestas
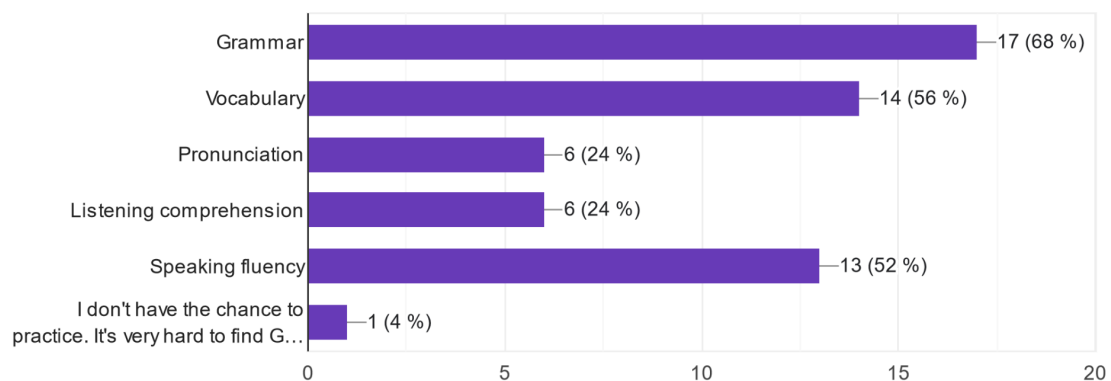
The bar chart shows the most common challenges faced by the 25 respondents when learning German:

- Grammar: 17 respondents (68%)
- Vocabulary: 14 respondents (56%)
- Speaking fluency: 13 respondents (52%)
- Listening comprehension and pronunciation: 6 respondents each (24%)
- Practice opportunities: 1 respondent (4%)

Grammar is the most reported challenge, followed by vocabulary and speaking fluency, indicating that these aspects of the language may require particular attention in the design of educational materials or German courses. Pronunciation and listening comprehension are challenges for a quarter of respondents, while very few report difficulties in finding practice opportunities. These data could be useful to better understand the areas in which German learners need more support.

What kind of content do you find most helpful when learning German?
25 respuestas
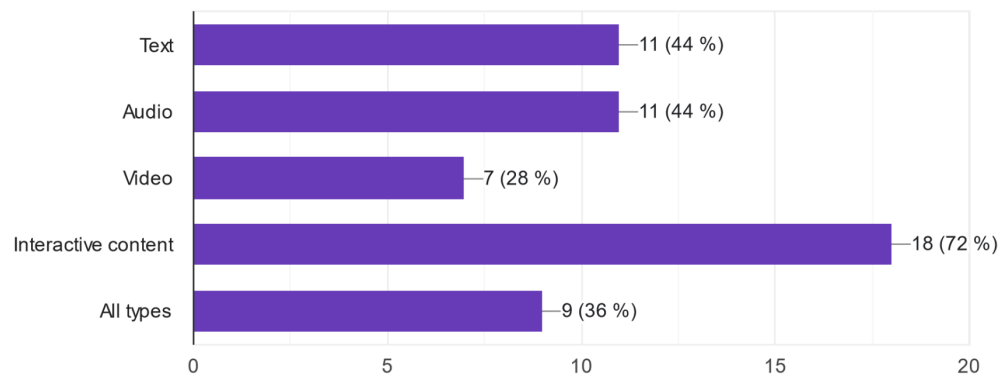
The bar chart shows the types of content that the 25 respondents find most useful for learning German:

- Interactive content: 18 respondents (72%).
- Text: 11 respondents (44%)
- Audio: 11 respondents (44%)
- Video: 7 respondents (28%)
- All types: 9 respondents (36%)

Interactive content is clearly the most highly rated among participants, suggesting that activities that involve a higher degree of participation and active response are seen as the most beneficial. Text and audio are also popular formats, indicating a preference for resources that can be consumed at a self-paced pace and possibly allow for the practice of reading and listening skills. Video is less used compared to the other formats. In addition, there are a significant number of respondents who value the combination of all content types, supporting the idea of a multimodal learning approach.

## How do you measure your progress in learning German?
25 respuestas
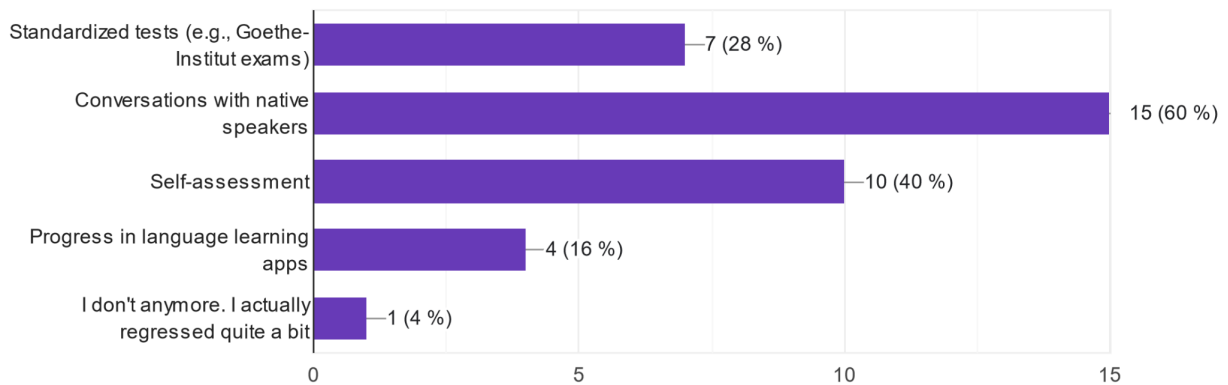
The bar chart shows how the 25 respondents measure their progress in learning German:

- Conversations with native speakers: 15 respondents (60%).
- Self-assessment: 10 respondents (40%).
- Standardized tests (e.g., Goethe-Institut exams): 7 respondents (28%).
- Progress in language learning applications: 4 respondents (16%).
- One respondent (4%) indicates that he no longer measures his progress and feels that he has regressed quite a bit.

Most respondents prefer direct interaction with native speakers to measure their progress, which may indicate the importance they place on practical and real communicative ability. Self-assessment is also a common tool, possibly due to its convenience and the ability to perform it without the need for additional resources. Less frequent is the use of standardized tests and language learning apps, which may reflect a preference for more informal or accessible methods of assessment.

Do you practice speaking German with native speakers, and if so, how often?
25 respuestas
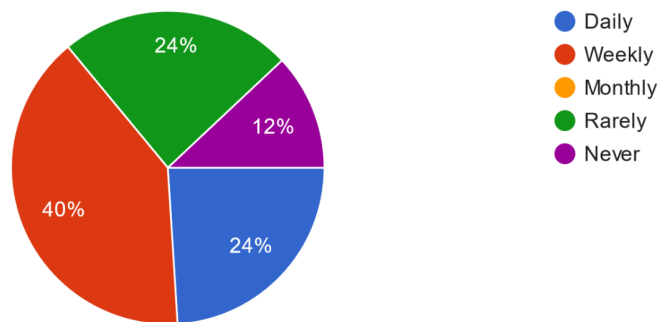
The pie chart shows how often the 25 respondents practice speaking German with native speakers:

- Daily: 24%
- Weekly: 40%
- Monthly: 0%
- Rarely: 24%
- Never: 12% (3 out of 25)

The majority of respondents practice German with native speakers on a weekly basis, suggesting a regular dedication to oral practice of the language. A quarter do so daily, which is indicative of more intensive immersion or the possibility of living in a German-speaking environment. Notably, there are no respondents who practice monthly, and a significant percentage who rarely or never have the opportunity to practice in this way. The latter could reflect limitations in the availability of native speakers or confidence to engage in regular conversations.

How important is cultural context in your German learning experience?
25 respuestas
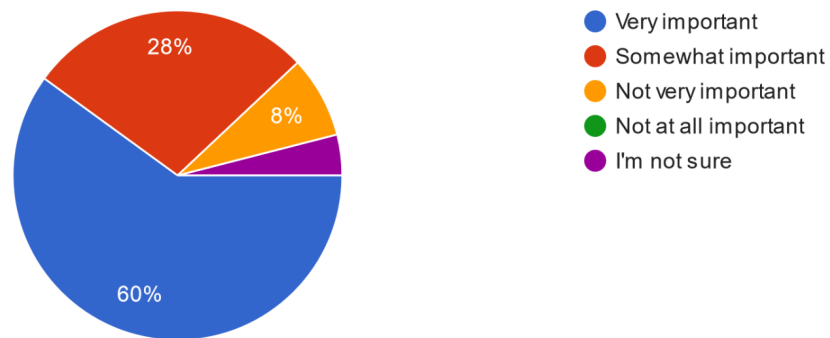
The pie chart shows the importance of cultural context in the German learning experience of the 25 respondents:

- Very important: 60% of respondents.
- Somewhat important: 28% of respondents.
- Not very important: 8% of respondents.
- Not important at all: 0% of respondents.
- Not sure: 4% of respondents.

The majority of respondents believe that cultural context is very important in their learning of German, indicating that understanding German culture is seen as an essential aspect of language proficiency. A significant percentage also believe it is somewhat important, suggesting that although it is not the primary factor, it is still relevant. A small fraction of respondents do not attach much importance to cultural context or are unsure of its relevance. No one felt that cultural context is not important at all, highlighting its perceived value in the language learning process.

What resources or methods have significantly contributed to your German language acquisition?
(Please provide details)

25 respuestas
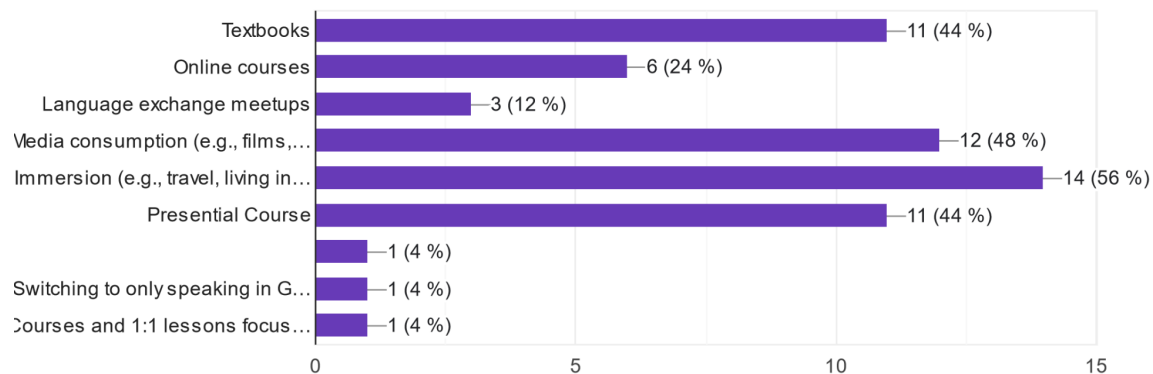
The bar chart shows the resources or methods that have contributed significantly to German language learning for 25 respondents:

- Immersion (travel, living in a German-speaking country): 14 respondents (56%).
- Media consumption (e.g., movies, television, music): 12 respondents (48%).
- Face-to-face courses (including courses and individual lessons focused on speaking): 12 respondents (48%).
- Textbooks: 11 respondents (44%).
- Online courses: 6 respondents (24%).
- Language exchange meetups: 3 respondents (12%).

These results reflect the importance of structured teaching methods, whether through face-to-face courses or individual lessons, and immersion and media consumption as effective ways to enhance German language learning.

How do you incorporate new vocabulary into your German language study?
25 respuestas
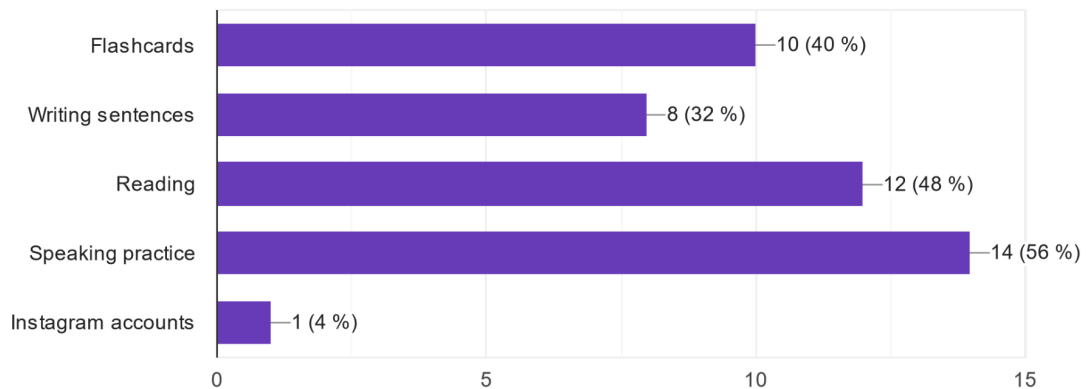
The bar graph shows the methods that the 25 respondents use to incorporate new vocabulary into their German language study:

- Speaking practice: 14 respondents (56%)
- Reading: 12 respondents (48%)
- Flashcards: 10 respondents (40%)
- Writing sentences: 8 respondents (32%)
- Instagram accounts: 1 respondent (4%)

Practicing speaking is the most popular method, suggesting that respondents value the practical application of new words in conversation. Reading is also a common tool, allowing students to see words in context. Using flashcards and writing sentences are also fairly widely used strategies, indicating a preference for memorization and written production techniques. Instagram accounts seem to be the least common method, which could be due to their more passive or less structured nature for vocabulary learning.

What techniques or tools do you find most effective in retaining the German you've learned?

25 respuestas
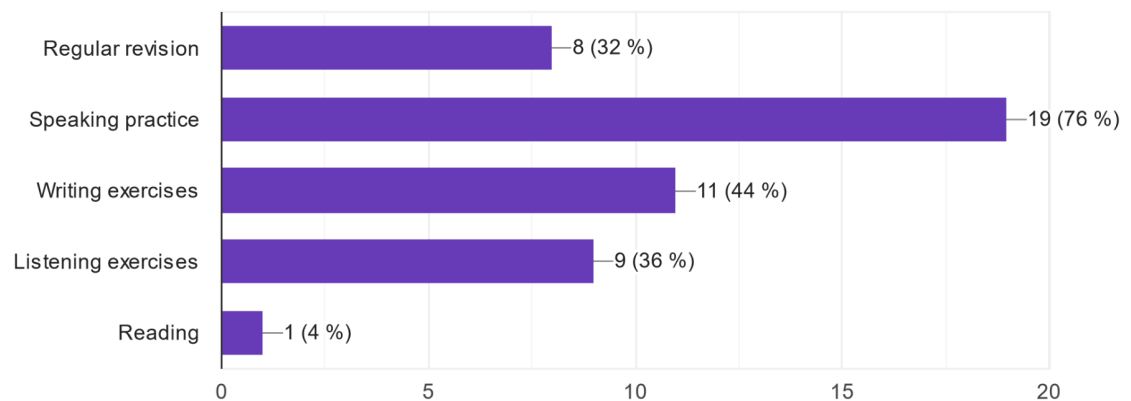
The bar chart shows the techniques or tools that the 25 respondents find most effective in retaining the German they have learned:

● Speaking practice: 19 respondents (76%).
● Writing exercises: 11 respondents (44%).
● Listening exercises: 9 respondents (36%).
● Regular review: 8 respondents (32%).
● Reading: 1 respondent (4%).

Speaking practice is perceived as the most effective technique, indicating that active participation in conversation helps solidify language proficiency. Writing and listening exercises are also considered useful, suggesting the importance of an integrated approach that includes various language skills. Regular review is important for a significant number of respondents, while reading seems to be less favored as a tool for retaining learned German. These results may inform how learners prefer to interact with the language to improve their long-term retention.

Have you used any applications to assist with your German learning? If your answer is not, you do not need to fill the next questions.

25 respuestas

● Yes
● No

36%

64%
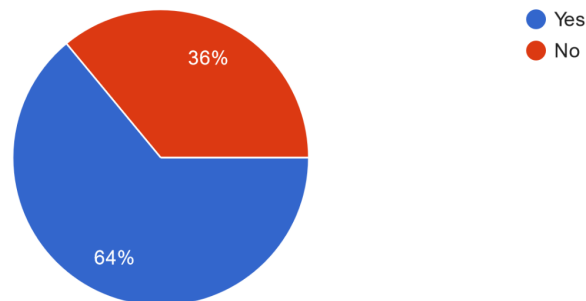
● Yes: 64% of the respondents have used applications.

The majority of the respondents have incorporated applications into their learning process, suggesting a trend towards the use of digital tools for studying the German language. However, a significant percentage have not yet used applications, which could reflect a preference for more traditional learning methods or a lack of knowledge or access to these digital tools.

Based on the information provided, respondents have mentioned the use of various applications for learning German. Duolingo appears as the most cited application, followed by DW (Deutsche Welle), which provides resources for learning German, and Babbel. Busuu is also mentioned.

These data suggest that Duolingo is a popular tool among German students in this group, possibly due to its accessibility and ease of use. Deutsche Welle (DW) is also recognized for its learning resources, which might reflect the search for more varied or specialized content. Babbel and Busuu are mentioned, but less frequently, which could be due to personal preference or the search for specific features in language learning applications.

In a detailed analysis of the applications used by the respondents to learn German, the following trends were identified:

● Duolingo is the most cited application, standing out as the top tool for a total of 16 participants, representing approximately 76% of those who responded to this question.

- DW (Deutsche Welle), a media content-based learning resource, is recognized by 5 users, representing 24%.
- Busuu, another language learning platform, along with Babbel, are mentioned by 3 users, constituting about 14%.
- Anki, a flashcard application, and Quizlet, an interactive study tool, are referred to by 2 respondents, representing 9.5%.
- Blinkist, ARD mediathek, and Deu Ling, apps that provide educational content in short formats, media, and language courses, respectively, are collectively named by 1 user, representing 4.7%.
- VHS app, a course platform that includes German, is mentioned by 1 user (4.7%).
- Tools such as Pons and DeepL, probably used for vocabulary queries and translation, are also mentioned by 1 user (4.7%).

This report indicates a clear preference for interactive and easy-to-use applications that offer a gamified and self-directed learning experience. It also reflects the use of media content resources as part of the language learning approach and suggests that variety in tools and methods is a common feature among learners of German.

Of the 18 responses received, participants expressed varied preferences towards different applications for learning German, each with specific reasons:

- Duolingo: Several mentions for being free and of good quality.
- Busuu: Preferred for its ease of use and clarity of explanations.
- Babbel: Chosen for being complete and providing good grammar explanations.
- DW (Deutsche Welle): Valued for having a comprehensive learning method and content that resonates more with adult users.
- Anki: Selected for its ease of use and customizability.
- VHS: Recognized for being a comprehensive tool that covers all language skills and is free.
- Quizlet: Used primarily for vocabulary recording.

Some users expressed disinterest or dissatisfaction with the use of language learning apps, citing the repetitiveness or unattractiveness of the methods as reasons for their preference. Others indicated not having used apps for this purpose. In general, users value apps that offer structured content, clear explanations, free access, and the ability to customize the learning experience.

What features do you wish were included in the current German learning app(s) you use?

23 respuestas
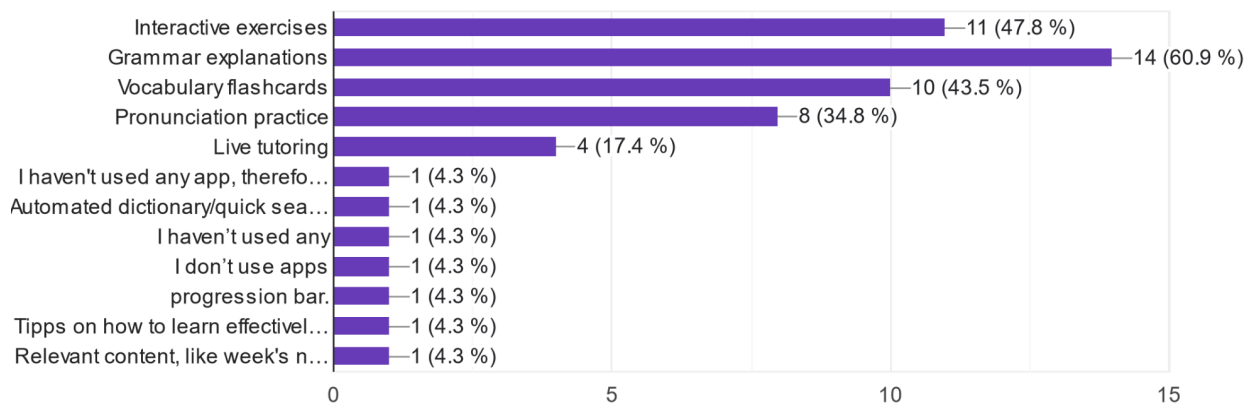
The bar chart shows the features desired by respondents in German learning applications:

- Interactive exercises: 11 respondents (47.8%).
- Grammar explanations: 14 respondents (60.9%)
- Flashcards: 10 respondents (43.5%)
- Pronunciation practice: 8 respondents (34.8%)
- Live tutoring: 4 respondents (17.4%)
- Progress bar: 1 respondent (4.3%)
- Relevant content such as weekly news: 1 respondent (4.3%)
- Tips on how to learn effectively: 1 respondent (4.3%)
- Automatic dictionary/quick lookup: 1 respondent (4.3%)

In addition, there are several respondents who indicated not using apps or having no experience with them. Grammar explanations are the most requested feature, indicating that users are looking to understand language structures in depth. Interactive exercises and flashcards are also highly valued, highlighting the importance of active participation and memorization in language learning. Live tutoring and pronunciation tools are recognized as important for improving fluency and correct pronunciation. Individual features, such as a progress bar and updated relevant content, although less requested, suggest an interest in personalized progress tracking and material that connects language learning to current events or everyday life.