

German heritage

Many Australians have a German-speaking heritage evident since the first wave of migration in 1838. Throughout Victoria there are cultural, community and social clubs and associations including the Goethe-Institut, the Association of German Speaking Communities and the German, Swiss and Austrian Clubs.

Learning the German language promotes a deeper appreciation of the history and cultures of German-speaking communities and deeper insights will be made through accessing information in German.

Teaching German in Victorian schools

The long tradition of German being taught in Victorian schools continues in primary and secondary government and non-government schools, including the Victorian School of Languages, after-hours community languages schools and Distance Education. The Department of Education assists the provision of German through support for the German Language Advisor, Languages Online and grants to support other services including the Germanlinx website.

The Goethe-Institut works cooperatively with the Association of German Teachers of Victoria Inc. in providing cultural, professional and promotional services for teachers and students including the development of German resources for schools. Goethe-Institut Resource Centres are placed in each of the 12 AGTV Networks throughout Victoria. Various in-country scholarships and exchanges are also available for both teachers and students of German.

Information

For further support in developing a German language program contact:

LOTE Unit
Student Learning Programs Division
Department of Education
Telephone: 9637 2041
Fax: 9637 2040
www.education.vic.gov.au/student-learning/teachingresources/loite/

Further

Resources are available on loan from the Languages and Multicultural Education Resource Centre (LMERC), at <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/student-learning/programs.htm>

Languages Online
www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/languagesonline/

German Advisor
Telephone: 9864 8920

Goethe-Institut Melbourne
Telephone: 9864 8999
www.goethe.de/melbourne

Association of German Teachers of Victoria Inc. (AGTV)
www.agtv.vic.edu.au

Why learn German?



German and German speaking countries

The German language is spoken by more than 125 million people as their native language in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Liechtenstein, Belgium, Luxemburg and Italy, and as a non-native language throughout the world. German is the most widely spoken native language in the European Union.

German is a significant world language in the fields of science, medicine, technology and the arts as well as a business language used in commerce, industry and many other professions. German is a major trading language in Europe and the world.



You already know some German!

Many German words are similar to English. Imagine you are in a German *Supermarkt* and have been asked to buy the following items: *Milch, Butter, Honig, Käse, Äpfel, Orangen, Suppe, Rosinen, Salat, Bananen* and *Limonade*. Would you have found most of the items?

In Germany, young people play *Sport* such as *Tennis, Fußball* and *Volleyball*. They go to *Kindergarten*, then to *Schule*, then to *Universität*. At *Schule* they study *Mathe, Physik, Englisch, Biologie, Chemie* und *Geographie*.

English and German have the same alphabet, share many sounds and have similar sentence structures. Once you learn the sound combinations of German you can generally write most words accurately through spelling phonetically. In fact English speakers already know about 30 per cent of German words as many English words are of German origin.

Auto	direkt	Haus
Autobahn	effektiv	Hunger
Bad	falsch	Information
Bank	Freund	intelligent
Bett	frisch	Manager
Daten	Garten	Musik
Dialog	Gitarre	Zoo

Thinking and literacy

Research shows that learning another language makes you a more flexible thinker and improves your literacy in all languages that you use. This is especially true for those who start their study at an early age. German's close links with English makes German an excellent starting point for learning how to learn other languages.



Learn German for the Future

Globalisation in the 21st Century is powered by multilingual world citizens, who can interact positively with others through their intercultural understanding and language skills. Students throughout the world are learning German to improve their career prospects in the European Union and beyond.

Following the unification of Germany in 1990 and the creation of the European Union, the economic importance of the German language is increasing. Accessing international markets requires language and intercultural skills which many Australians already possess and can complement by adding German to their skills base.

Knowledge of the German language can open doors to a wide range of employment opportunities both in Australia and overseas in the commercial, educational, arts, scientific, psychological, chemical, automotive, hospitality and viticulture fields, to name a few.

Germany invests heavily in the Asia-Pacific region. Germany is Australia's fifth largest import partner, and combined German investment in Victoria is worth around 3 billion Euros. Established companies in Australia include Audi, BASF, Bayer, BMW, Bosch, Aldi, Deutsche Bank, Miele, Schenker, Siemens, and ThyssenKrupp Engineering.

