



Language Tandem Online

HANDOUT

Channels of Communication

- ▶ Texting each other
- ▶ Audio call
- ▶ Video call
- ▶ Video call including screencasting
- ▶ Mutual usage of various digital tools in addition to video call
- ▶ E-Mail correspondence
- ▶ Good old letter writing

Idea 1 “Showing each other our apartments/ dorm rooms”

Goal: image description, oral production and exercising vocabulary regarding the topics housing/ food/ clothing

Procedure: The tandem partners call each other at a scheduled time. Partner A would like to learn German, partner B would like to learn French.

During the videocall Partner A shows his flat/ room to tandem partner B and describes everything in the target language German.

Partner B is then gives feedback regarding linguistic aspects and might help out in case partner A asks him for specific vocabulary.

Example: Partner A: „Was heißt *table* auf Deutsch?“ Partner B: „*Table* heißt *der Tisch* auf Deutsch.“

Now partner B is shows his flat/ room to tandem partner A and describes everything in the target language French.

Partner A is then also gives feedback regarding linguistic aspects and might help out in case partner B asks him for specific vocabulary. Example: Partner B: „*Comment dit-on der Wasserkocher en français?*“ Partner A: „*La bouilloire.*“

→ In case you don't know certain vocabulary, write them down on index cards and put them on the respective object; or ask your tandem partner to revise them with you.

→ You and your tandem partner can repeat this exercise at any given time in different rooms (e.g. kitchen/ bedroom: with the contents of the fridge/ wardrobe).

What you need: Skype or WhatsApp with the video call option or an external microphone + webcam

Idea 2 „We introduce our families to each other!“

Goal: describing a person, oral production, practicing vocabulary regarding the topics family, numbers, profession and relationships,

Levels: suitable for all levels

Procedure: In case you are staying with your family now you could introduce your family to your tandem partner via Skype. Later he could give you feedback regarding your language skills.

When you introduce the family members, talk about their age, their profession, where and when they were born, how your parents met, whether your siblings are married or not etc. You could also introduce your pets!

What you need: Skype, WhatsApp or Zoom including audio and video features

Idea 3 „We are solving exercises together!“

Goal: exercising grammar and vocabulary

Levels: suitable for all levels

Procedure: Solve exercises from your course book, the internet or from the tandem website (<https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/572807.html>) at home and send the answers (via Whatsapp or E-Mail) to your tandem partner. Ask him kindly for feedback and correct your mistakes, if necessary.

Alternative procedure: In case some of the worksheets exist as a PDF-file, you could use the Skype screencasting-feature to work on the files together with your tandem partner in real time.

What you need: Skype including screencasting feature, latest Skype update, WhatsApp, worksheets as PDF files

Idea 4 „Debating in the digital age!“

Goal: Exercising oral production, exam preparation

Levels: suitable for all levels

Procedure: Tandempartner A and B are looking for exercise templates online or in their work books (topic: debating/ discussion) which are relevant for their oral exam preparation (Goethe, ÖSD, Telc, DSH...).

The tandem partners send each other the exercise templates they want to work on, so they will be able to support each other in their exam preparation.

The exercises should be performed via Skype, simulating the actual exam situation.

First 30 minutes: First exercise in the first target language

Next 30 minutes: Second exercise in the other target language

What you need: exercise template from the internet or the course book for oral production, Skype

Idea 5

„Let's become penpals!“

Goal: written text production, reading comprehension, exercising a variety of text forms

Level: suitable for all levels

Procedure: In case you have a few stamps in stock, you and your tandem partner may find it exciting to start corresponding as pen friends. You may write a letter or a postcard in the language of your choice, however, once you start writing in your target language, you are actually exercising and improving your writing skills. When you are writing in your first language, you are helping your tandem partner with his reading comprehension. **Please (in the context of our current situation) do not** go to the post office and wait in the queue; rather: just walk to the next post box and send your letter!

What you need: the address of your tandem partner, envelopes/ paper or postcards, stamps **in stock**

Alternatively you could start writing each other via E-Mail.

Idea 6

„Let's visit a museum – online and for free!“

- ▶ **Goal: exercising oral production, vocabulary, means of verbal expression**
- ▶ Level: advanced
- ▶ Procedure: You and your tandem partner could visit a museum together online and exchange your experience, e.g. you could ask each other the following questions via Skype:
 1. What is the entrance fee for the museum? Is it reasonable?
 2. Do museums have high priority in your country, are they financially supported (by the government)?
 3. Do you think that museums should receive financial support? If so, how? From the government or the visitors?
 4. Do you like this particular exhibition? What kind of museums do you prefer (nature, history, technology, paintings, sculptures, military...)?
 5. Have you been to a similar museum before? If so, with whom and when?
 6. Would you like to visit this museum in reality?
 7. Do you have a bucket list when it comes to museums?
 8. Have you been to the city museum or to Friedland? What do you think about it? How does the city museum in your hometown look like?
- ▶ **What you need: Skype, maybe registering on the museum's website so one could take part in the virtual tour**