

TANDEM FAQs

gemeinsam leben und lernen
living and learning together

time- How often and how long are we about to meet?

- » Agree on how long you want to conduct the tandem (3 months, 6 months, 1 year...!)
- » Agree at least in the beginning on fixed dates!
- » It is recommended to meet around meet two times a week in the beginning.
- » Each session is dedicated to train one language.
- » There are no recommendations about the duration of the meetings, but you should not over-do! If you meet longer than one hour: change the language after the first half of the meeting!
- » Spare some extra time to prepare yourself for the meeting and to go through what you discussed afterwards!

location- Where can we meet?

- » Meet in a quiet and neutral place in the beginning (for example the cafeteria outside lunch-time or an unused seminar room, a quiet café).
- » It is as well possible to meet at places of common interest (exhibitions, museums or sport events).
- » After a while you can shift your meetings into more personal surroundings, for example to your home.

contents- How to get prepared?

- » You as the partners decide what to discuss and what to learn.
- » You can get some ideas from our topic list.
- » To get prepared for each meeting it is important that you agree on a focal topic beforehand, e.g. in the end of the previous session.

material- What can I bring to the tandem sessions?

- » You can use all kinds of material you consider interesting and helpful to discuss the topic of the session. From photos up to newspaper

articles up to little items or even food and drinks.

- » Depending on your language level it can be helpful to bring a dictionary.
- » The Tandem-Diary can be helpful to collect everything you discuss during your sessions. With it you to keep track of all the terms and phrases you got to know. It makes repeating and using them much easier.

corrections- How to help each other out?

- » First of all: Concentrate on what your partner wants to tell you and not on mistakes!
- » Give your partner the chance to ask for a correction.
- » Correct if you could not understand your partner or he/she is searching for the right words!
- » You can give corrections by asking what the other wanted to say or by using the right phrase/term in the on-going conversation.
- » Correct mistakes straight, without complicated explanations but politely!

Finally: Language tandem in a nutshell - useful tips

- » Practise each language separately!
- » Dedicate the same amount of time and attention (e.g. one hour) to each language!
- » Alternate in being the teacher and the learner!
- » Meet regularly!
- » Inform your partner in advance if you cannot keep the appointment!
- » Clarify the way you would like to learn.
- » Agree on the way of giving and receiving feedback!
- » Take notes and discuss mistakes at the end of the meeting!
- » Let your partner know when something is bothering you!
- » Discuss the progress of your tandem learning once a month, and make adjustments when necessary!

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TANDEM TOPICS

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In the Tandem you can pick the topics you want to discuss self-responsibly. This is a great chance to get to know, what might be really helpful and necessary to you during your stay abroad. A Tandem is a good opportunity not only to learn a language but also to get to know the context in which it is used. We prepared a little overview of topics to give you some hints.

>>Starter Kit<<

If you are a starter in the new language the 'classics' you learn in a language course are helpful in the Tandem too:

- » hello and farewell
- » introducing myself
- » internationalisms, terms that are very similar in all languages

>>the country and its people<<

- » folk festivals and parties
- » food culture
- » intercultural differences/ non-verbal expressions/ do's and don't's
- » why am I interested in the other language/ culture?

>>generell topics<<

- » family
- » holiday
- » music, arts, literature
- » sports and events

>>me and Weimar<<

- » what you doing here in Weimar?
- » why are interested in the town/country?

- » why do you like your course of studies?

>>everyday life<<

- » understanding of my field of study in the other country
- » young people and youth culture
- » every day language: dialects and phrases

>>getting around abroad<<

This might be especially interesting to you if you are about to go for a stay abroad, or just arrived in Germany:

- » arriving in a new country: opening hours, health insurance, where to buy a bus ticket... your Tandem-partner can help you to understand the bare necessities in the other culture
- » „make a living“ - buying groceries
- » forms and administration

>>student life<<

- » student housing abroad
- » learning culture: is a deadline a deadline or a recommendation
- » abbreviations and other 'vocabulary' outside the dictionary
- » student jobs abroad

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Bauhaus-
Universität
Weimar

TANDEM DIARY

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>> Date

>> Topic

>> Place

>> Learning goal

>> What could be little tasks and sub-topics?

>> Is there any material that I would like to use?

>> Notes

>> Something to do for next week?

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