



试着用德语说“你好” Try to say “Guten Tag” to your German Friends

By Chao Lee

天津歌德语言中心成立于2009年，是天津外国语学院与德国歌德学院的合作项目。除了天津分校，歌德学院在中国其他五大城市：上海，南京，重庆，西安以及青岛，均设有分校。对德语感兴趣或是有出国学习计划，歌德语言中心可以助你一臂之力。

The Goethe-Language Center Tianjin was founded in 2009 and is a cooperation between the Goethe-Institut in Germany and the Tianjin Foreign Studies University. Beside the Goethe-Language Center in Tianjin, the Goethe-Institut provides German classes, examinations and culture programs in 6 other Goethe Language Centers in China: Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Chongqing, Xi'an and Qingdao.

JIN: What kind of students have you been recruiting so far?

Karin Benkelmann-zhang (project manager from Goethe): Most of our students want to enroll in a German university and pursue their university studies in Germany in the future. According to their major, which is often engineering, economics, music or art, they need to pass different language tests, e.g. the B1 test or the TestDaF. These students are usually total beginners when they start to learn German at our school.

But we also have several students who are studying German at a university in Tianjin but are not satisfied with their grades and speaking skills and thus enroll in an additional class at our school on the weekend or at night.

Next to university students, we have been recruiting more and more employees that work in German companies and would like to learn some German to be able to better

understand German communication ways and German culture.

The third big group of students are planning to go to Germany with their German husbands or wives and need a certificate to prove beginner's German language skills (A1) to apply for the visa.

Last but not least we are getting more and more teenagers that are taking part in cultural exchange programs and preparing to go to Germany for one year, and children between 5 and 10 who have started to learn some German either in Germany or in China and would like to keep studying it. Thus, we have designed new teenager and kids classes.

JIN: Is it possible for expats to study at Goethe?

Karin: Yes. Expats can contact their HR department and ask them to contact us. In this case the class is conducted at the office in their company. Expats can also contact us directly and come to our school for class or enroll in individual one-on-one classes.

JIN: Are there any special courses specifically designed for those who want to study abroad?

Karin: Yes. There is the TestDaF preparation class, which comprises 120 units in which the 4 parts of the TestDaF exam, reading, writing, listening and speaking are prepared and fine-tuned. This class is offered just before each of the 3 TestDaF examination dates in China.

We also have a communication class every eight weeks for advanced learners who want to study abroad. In this class students prepare the oral parts of the APS, B2 and C1 test and

TestDaF exam, improve their pronunciation and communicate efficiently in given situations, e.g. enrollment in a German university.

JIN: Do students have to have some basic knowledge of German? Can they start from Level 0?

Karin: Students do not need to have any knowledge of German. In such cases they also do not need to do the entry-level test but can directly enroll for the beginner's A1 class.

JIN: What's the difference of Goethe, compared with other German language schools?

Karin: Goethe classes are very student-centered and interactive. That means that we want our students to be active and communicative participants in class. Our teachers carry out an interactive teaching style, i.e. they give impulses so that students can discover and acquire vocabulary, reading strategies and grammar rules actively rather than through long and exhausting teacher explanations. Though all 4 skills (hearing, speaking, reading, writing) are taught, Goethe emphasizes speaking skills in every class because for most students here in China the only chance they get to speak German is in class.

In order to enhance their speaking frequency and quality, Goethe teaches in small classes and conducts a lot of partner and group work. The teacher constantly moves from group to group to correct the pronunciation and grammar.