

TIBIDISCIS: ONLINE SERVICE FOR LANGUAGE LEARNING

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tibidiscis.com

Tibidiscis lets learners learn languages using texts that they have chosen and added themselves. The service generates automatically fill-in-the-blanks exercises from the text given, provides feedback, and saves the learning results for monitoring progress. At the moment, English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Swedish, and Finnish are available. More languages to come!

Learning method

Tibidiscis splits the given text into paragraphs and shows a paragraph at a time as an exercise, as seen in the example below. The gaps can correspond to varying features of language, both morphological, syntactic, and semantic. There can also be a guiding hint in a gap, like the base form or a part of the missing word.

Paragraph as an exercise

Auf ___ anderen Seite ___ sich die Frage, inwieweit es Sinn macht, Bücher in Katalogen ___ zuweisen, die ___ gar keine Bibliothek zugänglich gemacht werden können.

After the learner has submitted the exercise, Tibidiscis shows the original snippet. The learner's answers are highlighted according to if they are the same as or different from the original word.

When the learner goes through the story again later, the gaps are shuffled anew, which makes the exercises always look different and fresh.

The same paragraph, a new exercise

___ der anderen Seite stellt sich ___ Frage, inwieweit es Sinn ____, Bücher ___ Katalogen nachzuweisen, die über gar keine Bibliothek ___ gänglich gemacht werden können.

Benefits

Languages are best learned in context. The meaning and form of a word is defined by the other words in its neighborhood. Language usage is highly idiosyncratic, but it is impossible to include all the conventions in any dictionary, textbook, or language course.

Intermediate level learners can easily **expand their competence by adding texts on topics they know well.** Background knowledge and repetition of expressions let one learn language in a natural context.

Advanced level learners often face the problem that **they seem to understand everything they read but still make errors when they write and speak.** Tibidiscis lets them focus on gaps in their competence, thus improving accuracy in production.

Learners can **tailor their language learning efforts to support their professional needs or sparetime activities.** Learning becomes more entertaining and motivating, which also makes them spend more time with it. Additionally, the learning focus is in the expressions they need and can immediately start using.

Tibidiscis **supports continuous learning.** It is easy to learn regularly, even if one only has a few minutes a day to spare. There is no need for preparations, just go to tibidiscis.com and start learning!

Linguistic processing

Tibidiscis does not try to cover all the features of a language but concentrates on features that are reasonable to learn with this method.

What can be learned?

Morphological and grammatical systems of languages differ greatly. Therefore, also the features included differ from language to language.

For learners of English, the use of articles, prepositions, and phrasal expressions is a central part of learning.

In German, expressions often contain a noun and a verb. Usually it is rather easy to know which noun should be used, but choosing the correct verb, prepositions, and articles (of correct gender, number, and case) is harder.

The tense system of Spanish is more complicated than that of English.

Features also depend on the analysis tools available

Linguistic processing is used to select **gap words** and **hints**.

Gap words: words that are left out of the paragraph to make it an exercise.

Hints: part of the original word, its base form, or no hint at all.

No analyzer

We can collect words for closed categories of the language, like pronouns and prepositions, as well as some frequent verbs. These words can then be selected as gap words when they occur in text.

Regular prefixes and suffixes

Many languages have regular prefixes and suffixes that represent syntactic or semantic features of the language. A natural hint for a word with a prefix (e.g. **zugänglich**) is its root (**gänglich**).

Morphological analyser

We can define that words of certain parts-of-speech are good gap words. For hints, a base form of the word in question is often available.

Just go and try it: tibidiscis.com

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