Technical German
Engineering & Trade Series

Duration: 46 Weeks (Intensive)
Level Progression: Absolute Beginner (A0) → Advanced Professional (B2)
Specialization: Automotive, Manufacturing, Industry 4.0
Tightlip Traders Institute
Advanced Professional Training Solutions

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PHASE 1: ABSOLUTE BEGINNER (ZERO LEVEL)
Weeks 1–6 | *Laying the Technical Foundation*

Week 1: The Sounds of Industry — Level: Zero/A0

Objective: Master phonetic precision for clear technical communication.
Topics: German Alphabet, Umlaute (ä, ö, ü), 'ß', Diphthongs (ei, ie, eu).
Tech Vocab: *Maß (Dimension), Öl (Oil), Düse (Nozzle), Fuß (Foot/Base).*
Practical: Pronouncing specific tool names without accent errors.
Real-Life: Ensuring clarity when stating measurements over radio/phone.

Week 2: Numbers & Technical Data — Level: Zero/A0

Objective: Read and report numerical data accurately.
Topics: Counting 0–100+, Decimal commas vs points, Telephone numbers.
Tech Vocab: *Nummer (Number), Anzahl (Quantity), Wert (Value), Null (Zero).*
Practical: Reading serial numbers and inventory counts aloud.
Real-Life: Reporting stock levels and reading digital gauge displays.

Week 3: Units of Measurement (SI) — Level: Zero/A0

Objective: Understand and state engineering units in German.
Topics: Metric system pronunciation, Unit abbreviations.
Tech Vocab: *Millimeter, Kilogramm, Grad Celsius, Bar, Volt, Ampere, Watt.*
Practical: Reading dimensions from a basic schematic drawing.
Real-Life: Confirming pressure (bar) and temperature (°C) settings on a machine.

Week 4: Time, Dates & Schedules — Level: Zero/A0

Objective: Manage shift timings and deadlines.
Topics: 24-hour clock, Days, Months, Date format (DD.MM.YYYY).
Tech Vocab: *Schicht (Shift), Frühschicht (Morning Shift), Pause (Break), Termin (Deadline).*
Practical: Explaining when a machine started and stopped running.
Real-Life: Understanding a shift roster or production schedule.

Week 5: Basic Syntax & Being — Level: Zero/A0

Objective: Form simple statements about identity and state.
Topics: Subject + Verb + Object, Verbs 'sein' (to be) and 'haben' (to have).
Tech Vocab: *Ingenieur (Engineer), Techniker (Technician), Werkzeug (Tool), Neu (New).*
Practical: "I am an engineer." / "The machine is new."
Real-Life: introducing oneself and one's role at a site entrance.

Week 6: Workplace Survival — Level: Zero/A0

Objective: Navigate the immediate working environment.
Topics: Formal address (Sie), Greetings, Basic safety commands.
Tech Vocab: *Achtung (Attention), Halt (Stop), Hilfe (Help), Gefahr (Danger).*
Practical: Reacting to warning shouts and understanding "Betreten verboten".
Real-Life: Recognizing hazard zones and understanding verbal warnings.

PHASE 2: STRONG FOUNDATION (A1)
Weeks 7–14 | *The Workshop Environment*

Week 7: Nouns & Articles (The Parts) — Level: A1

Objective: Categorize tools and objects by gender (der/die/das).
Topics: Definite & Indefinite articles, Compound nouns.
Tech Vocab: *Der Hammer, Die Zange, Das Messgerät, Die Schraube.*
Practical: Labeling items in a toolbox correctly.
Real-Life: Asking for a specific tool accurately ("Geben Sie mir den Hammer").

Week 8: Actions in the Present — Level: A1

Objective: Describe current activities and machine states.
Topics: Present tense conjugation (Regular verbs).
Tech Vocab: *Messen (measure), Bohren (drill), Sägen (saw), Drehen (turn).*
Practical: "I measure the part." / "The motor turns."
Real-Life: Explaining what you are doing to a supervisor in real-time.

Week 9: The Accusative Case (Direct Objects) — Level: A1

Objective: Express interaction with objects.
Topics: Accusative declension (den/die/das), "Ich brauche..." (I need).
Tech Vocab: *Ersatzteil (Spare part), Plan (Blueprint), Schlüssel (Key/Wrench).*
Practical: Creating a requisition list: "I need the bolt."
Real-Life: Ordering specific parts from the warehouse window.

Week 10: Modal Verbs (Rules & Safety) — Level: A1

Objective: Understand obligations, permissions, and ability.
Topics: *Müssen* (must), *Dürfen* (allowed), *Können* (can).
Tech Vocab: *Schutzbrille (Goggles), Helm (Helmet), Rauchen (Smoking), Tragen (Wear).*
Practical: "You must wear goggles." / "Smoking is not allowed."
Real-Life: Reading and following mandatory safety signage (Gebotsschilder).

Week 11: Plurals & Materials — Level: A1

Objective: Discuss quantities and raw materials.
Topics: Plural formation rules, Material adjectives.
Tech Vocab: *Stahl (Steel), Eisen (Iron), Kupfer (Copper), Schrauben (Screws).*
Practical: Describing a shipment: "50 steel plates."
Real-Life: Verifying incoming goods against a delivery note.

Week 12: Prepositions of Place (Location) — Level: A1

Objective: Locate items in the workshop.
Topics: *in, an, auf, unter, neben, zwischen* (Dat/Acc mix intro).
Tech Vocab: *Werkbank (Workbench), Regal (Shelf), Kiste (Box), Boden (Floor).*
Practical: "The tool is on the table." / "The cable is under the machine."
Real-Life: Finding parts based on verbal instructions.

Week 13: The Imperative (Commands)   Level: A1

Objective: Give and follow direct instructions.
Topics: Imperative forms (Sie/du/ihr), Politeness particles (bitte).
Tech Vocab: *Drücken (Press), Ziehen (Pull), Starten (Start), Stoppen (Stop).*
Practical: "Press the button!" / "Switch off the motor!"
Real-Life: Emergency response commands and operating procedures.

Week 14: Workshop Orientation   Level: A1

Objective: Navigate large facilities and give directions.
Topics: Directions (links, rechts, geradeaus), Areas of a factory.
Tech Vocab: *Halle (Hall), Lager (Warehouse), Büro (Office), Eingang (Entrance).*
Practical: Guiding a delivery truck to the correct unloading bay.
Real-Life: Logistics coordination within a plant.

Week 15: The Dative Case (Position)   Level: A2

Objective: Describe static positions precisely.
Topics: Dative articles (dem/der/dem), Wo? (Where?).
Tech Vocab: *Im Schrank (In the cabinet), Am Gerät (At the device).*
Practical: Reporting exactly where a defect was found on a chassis.
Real-Life: Maintenance logs: "Leak found at the main valve."

Week 16: Separable Verbs (Operations)   Level: A2

Objective: Describe complex mechanical actions.
Topics: Verbs like *anschalten, ausbauen, zumachen, aufmachen*.
Tech Vocab: *Anschließen (Connect), Abschalten (Switch off), Einlegen (Insert).*
Practical: "I am switching the machine on." / "He is taking the part out."
Real-Life: Narrating a startup or shutdown sequence.

Week 17: Perfect Tense 1 (Completed Actions)   Level: A2

Objective: Report on finished tasks (Regular).
Topics: Past Participle (ge-t), Hilfsverb 'haben'.
Tech Vocab: *Repariert (repaired), Gemacht (made), Geprüft (tested), Geschweißt (welded).*
Practical: "I have tested the pressure."
Real-Life: Shift handover: Reporting what work was completed.

Week 18: Perfect Tense 2 (Movement/Change)   Level: A2

Objective: Report on movement and irregular tasks.
Topics: Hilfsverb 'sein', Irregular participles (ge-en).
Tech Vocab: *Gegangen (gone), Gefahren (driven), Gelaufen (run/functioned).*
Practical: "The machine has run for 5 hours." / "The forklift has driven away."
Real-Life: Logbook entries regarding machine operation times.

Week 19: Technical Adjectives (Defects)   Level: A2

Objective: Describe the condition of parts and systems.
Topics: Adjective endings (basic), Opposites.
Tech Vocab: *Defekt (broken), Locker (loose), Fest (tight), Undicht (leaking), Heiß (hot).*
Practical: "The screw is loose." / "The pipe is leaking."
Real-Life: Quality control visual inspections.

Week 20: Comparisons & Tolerances   Level: A2

Objective: Compare measurements and specifications.
Topics: Comparative (bigger than), Superlative (biggest).
Tech Vocab: *Länger (longer), Breiter (wider), Toleranz (tolerance), Zu groß (too big).*
Practical: "The gap is too wide." / "Use a smaller wrench."
Real-Life: Checking parts against Go/No-Go gauges.

Week 21: Machine Parts & Assembly — Level: A2

Objective: Understand and describe assembly groups.
Topics: Compound nouns for mechanics.
Tech Vocab: *Getriebe (Gearbox), Welle (Shaft), Lager (Bearing), Gehäuse (Housing).*
Practical: Naming the main components of a motor or pump.
Real-Life: Reading a Bill of Materials (BOM/Stückliste).

Week 22: Problem Reporting (Basics) — Level: A2

Objective: Formulate simple error reports.
Topics: Syntax: "The [Part] has a [Problem].", Conjunction 'denn' (for/because).
Tech Vocab: *Fehler (Error), Störung (Malfunction), Geräusch (Noise), Ausfall (Failure).*
Practical: "The motor makes a loud noise."
Real-Life: First-level response to a machine breakdown.

PHASE 4: PROFESSIONAL TECHNICAL (B1)
Weeks 23–32 | *Documentation & Reporting*

Week 23: Causal Conjunctions (Root Cause) — Level: B1

Objective: Explain WHY a failure occurred.
Topics: Nebensatz (Subordinate clause): *weil, da*.
Tech Vocab: *Überhitzung (Overheating), Verschleiß (Wear), Überlastung (Overload).*
Practical: "The motor stopped because it overheated."
Real-Life: Basic Root Cause Analysis (RCA) discussions.

Week 24: Relative Clauses (Definitions) — Level: B1

Objective: Define specific parts or machines precisely.
Topics: Relativpronomen (der/die/das within sentences).
Tech Vocab: *Bauteil (Component), Sensor (Sensor), Ventil (Valve).*
Practical: "The valve, which is leaking, must be replaced."
Real-Life: Clarifying exactly which component needs maintenance in a complex system.

Week 25: Passive Voice 1 (The Process) — Level: B1

Objective: Focus on the action rather than the actor.
Topics: Vorgangspassiv (werden + Partizip II).
Tech Vocab: *Produziert (produced), Bearbeitet (processed), Montiert (assembled).*
Practical: "The part is being machined." (Das Teil wird bearbeitet.)
Real-Life: Describing production workflows where the operator is irrelevant.

Week 26: Passive Voice 2 (The State) — Level: B1

Objective: Describe the result of a process.
Topics: Zustandspassiv (sein + Partizip II).
Tech Vocab: *Geöffnet (opened), Geschlossen (closed), Erledigt (done).*
Practical: "The valve is closed." / "The repair is finished."
Real-Life: Status reporting during board meetings.

Week 27: The Genitive (Specifications) — Level: B1

Objective: Express belonging and technical properties.
Topics: Genitive markers (des/der), "von" alternative.
Tech Vocab: *Durchmesser (Diameter), Länge (Length), Leistung (Power/Output).*
Practical: "The power of the motor." / "The diameter of the pipe."
Real-Life: Reading technical data sheets and specs.

Week 28: Präteritum (Written Reports) — Level: B1

Objective: Write formal incident reports.
Topics: Simple past tense (writing focus).
Tech Vocab: *Fiel aus (failed), Brach (broke), Stand (stood/stopped).*
Practical: Writing a paragraph about yesterday's production downtime.
Real-Life: Formal documentation (Schichtbericht).

Week 29: Technical Meetings   Level: B1

Objective: Participate in team discussions.
Topics: Expressing opinion, Agreement/Disagreement.
Tech Vocab: *Meinung (Opinion), Vorschlag (Proposal), Einverstanden (Agreed).*
Practical: "I think we should change the filter."
Real-Life: Daily shopfloor meetings (Shopfloor Management).

Week 30: Professional Emails   Level: B1

Objective: Communicate via email internally.
Topics: Salutations, Requests, Attachments.
Tech Vocab: *Anhang (Attachment), Bestätigung (Confirmation), Rückfrage (Query).*
Practical: Drafting an email to maintenance requesting a check.
Real-Life: Internal corporate communication.

Week 31: Quality Control (QC)   Level: B1

Objective: Discuss quality standards and deviations.
Topics: Norms, Checks, Results.
Tech Vocab: *Abweichung (Deviation), Maßhaltigkeit (Dimensional accuracy), Ausschuss (Scrap).*
Practical: Explaining why a batch was rejected.
Real-Life: Interactions with the QA department.

Week 32: Describing Processes   Level: B1

Objective: Explain a sequence of technical steps.
Topics: Adverbs: *Zuerst (first), Dann (then), Danach (afterwards), Schließlich (finally).*
Tech Vocab: *Vorgang (Process), Schritt (Step), Ablauf (Sequence).*
Practical: Explaining how to change a drill bit step-by-step.
Real-Life: Training a new colleague or apprentice.

PHASE 5: ADVANCED ENGINEERING (B2)
Weeks 33–40 | *Innovation & Standards*

Week 33: Nominalization (Tech Style)   Level: B2

Objective: Use formal "Engineering German" style.
Topics: Turning verbs/adjectives into nouns (Das Bearbeiten, Die Festigkeit).
Tech Vocab: *Inbetriebnahme (Commissioning), Härtung (Hardening).*
Practical: "The hardening of the steel takes 2 hours."
Real-Life: Writing SOPs and technical manuals.

Week 34: Participles as Adjectives   Level: B2

Objective: Describe dynamic states concisely.
Topics: Partizip I (end -d) vs Partizip II as adjectives.
Tech Vocab: *Laufend (running), Stehend (standing), Gekühlt (cooled).*
Practical: "The running motor." / "The cooled liquid."
Real-Life: Detailed system descriptions in specifications.

Week 35: Konjunktiv II (Polite/Hypothetical)   Level: B2

Objective: Make polite requests and discuss "what if".
Topics: *Hätte, Wäre, Würde, Könnte*.
Tech Vocab: *Möglichkeit (Possibility), Risiko (Risk), Annahme (Assumption).*
Practical: "Could you please send the drawing?" / "If the pressure were higher..."
Real-Life: Professional requests and risk analysis meetings.

Week 36: Passive with Modals   Level: B2

Objective: Give instructions in passive voice.
Topics: *Muss gemacht werden* (Must be done).
Tech Vocab: *Reinigung (Cleaning), Wartung (Maintenance), Austausch (Exchange).*
Practical: "The filter must be replaced immediately."
Real-Life: Writing mandatory maintenance instructions.

Week 37: Industry 4.0 & Automation   Level: B2

Objective: Discuss modern manufacturing technologies.
Topics: Compound terms in IT/Tech.
Tech Vocab: *Schnittstelle (Interface), Vernetzung (Networking), Cloud, Datensicherheit.*
Practical: Discussing data flow between a sensor and the PLC.
Real-Life: Working in a Smart Factory environment.

Week 38: Reading Standards (DIN/ISO)   Level: B2

Objective: Comprehend regulatory German.
Topics: Complex syntax found in norms.
Tech Vocab: *Vorschrift (Regulation), Norm (Standard), Einhalten (Comply/Adhere).*
Practical: Analyzing a paragraph from a DIN standard.
Real-Life: Compliance and audit preparation.

Week 39: Advanced Troubleshooting — Level: B2

Objective: Lead complex problem-solving discussions.
Topics: Connector words for argumentation (*Folglich, Dennoch, Einerseits*).
Tech Vocab: *Ursache (Cause), Auswirkung (Impact), Maßnahmen (Measures).*
Practical: Debating the best solution for a recurring failure.
Real-Life: Engineering troubleshooting workshops (8D Report).

Week 40: Vendor Communication — Level: B2

Objective: Negotiate with suppliers and external partners.
Topics: Negotiation vocabulary, Claims.
Tech Vocab: *Liefertermin (Delivery date), Rabatt (Discount), Reklamation (Claim).*
Practical: "We cannot accept this delay."
Real-Life: Supply chain management and procurement.

PHASE 6: JOB READINESS
Weeks 41–46 | *Career Launch*

Week 41: The German CV (Lebenslauf) — Level: Career

Objective: Create a German-standard CV.
Topics: CV Structure, Professional vocabulary for experience.
Vocab: *Erfahrung (Experience), Kenntnisse (Skills), Ausbildung (Education).*
Output: A completed, reviewed German CV.

Week 42: Interview 1 (Self-Presentation) — Level: Career

Objective: Introduce yourself professionally.
Topics: "Tell us about yourself", Strengths/Weaknesses.
Vocab: *Stärken (Strengths), Schwächen (Weaknesses), Zielstrebig (Determined).*
Output: A polished 2-minute self-introduction pitch.

Week 43: Interview 2 (Technical Q&A) — Level: Career

Objective: Answer technical competency questions.
Topics: Describing past projects and technical skills.
Vocab: *Verantwortlich für (Responsible for), Entwickelt (Developed).*
Output: Answering "How do you handle pressure?" in a technical context.

Week 44: Project Explanations (STAR) — Level: Career

Objective: Explain complex achievements clearly.
Topics: Situation, Task, Action, Result method in German.
Vocab: *Herausforderung (Challenge), Ergebnis (Result), Erfolg (Success).*
Output: Presenting a portfolio case study.

Week 45: Workplace Culture — Level: Career

Objective: Understand German business etiquette.
Topics: Punctuality, Directness, Hierarchy, "Feierabend".
Vocab: *Zuverlässigkeit (Reliability), Pünktlichkeit (Punctuality).*
Output: Cultural Do's and Don'ts checklist.

Week 46: Final Simulation — Level: Career

Objective: Prove job readiness.
Scenario: Full Mock Interview + Technical Assessment.
Output: Final feedback and certification readiness.