

vobot FAQ & SUPPORT

The team at L-Pub is doing everything we can to help make vobot the best vocabulary trainer app ever. If everything isn't perfect yet, remember: when you buy or subscribe to the app, you will automatically receive future updates as we implement them.

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SEARCH FOR WORDS

How do I look for a word?

When you start the app you will automatically be directed to the search screen. If you are in the "Learn" area, just press the button "Search" on the bottom left of your screen to get back to the search mode. Once you are there, type in any word in the search field. Options which include those letters start appearing beneath the search field. Touch a word to see a definition. Sometimes you may need to choose between different meanings.

How do I type in an umlaut (ä ö ü)?

If you don't have any umlauts on your regular keyboard, just press and hold "a", "o" or "u" until you see different letter options appear like "ä", "ö" and "ü". Then slide your finger over to the letter you want and let go.

How do I type an "ß"?

If you don't have the "ß" (called "Eszett" or "scharfes S") on your regular keyboard, just press and hold "s" until you see different letter options appear. Then slide your finger over to the "ß" and let go.

How do I add the German or Georgian keyboard?

You can add the keyboard in the settings area of your mobile device. It will then automatically appear in vobot. You can find detailed instructions about adding keyboards in the settings/INFO area of vobot.

Why can't I find all 33 Georgian characters?

The standard keyboard that appears on your device may not have sufficient space for all Georgian characters. Simply press the SHIFT key to access additional characters.

Why are some words listed more than once?

If a word with the same spelling is not only an adjective, but also an adverb, such as "eben", it will be listed twice. Usually, however, if there are different meanings of one word (but it's always a verb, for instance), you only see the word once in the search list and its different meanings on the definition screen.

How do I get rid of the keyboard in order to go to my learning list?

You can close the keyboard either by pressing the "Search/Done/Enter" button or tapping anywhere in the screen above the keyboard. Be aware that if you tap on a word in the search list, it may take you to its definition instead of just closing the keyboard. Once the keyboard is gone, you will see the "LEARN" icon to the lower right to access your learning list.

Why is the word I am looking for not available?

vobot German is based on the Hueber German-English Learner's Dictionary, which has over 30,000 entries, but that does not include every word in the German language. vobot Georgisch is based on the Wörterbuch Deutsch – Georgisch / Georgisch – Deutsch by Helmut Buske Verlag, which has over 10,000 entries, but not every word in the Georgian language.

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CHOOSE A MEANING

What do the numbers and the arrows above the words mean?

Many words have different meanings, or at least different possible translations. The numbers at the left tell you which definition you are looking at and how many definitions there are in total. The arrows to the right let you navigate between the different definitions.

What do the numbers and the arrows above the sample sentence mean? (vobot German only)

Many entries in vobot German have more than one sample sentence you can choose from. The numbers at the left tell you which sample sentence you are looking at and how many sentences there are in total. The arrows to the right let you navigate between the different sentences.

What exactly am I adding when I select "ADD TO LEARNING LIST"?

When you hit "ADD TO LEARNING LIST", both the definition and the sample sentence (vobot German) you see on your screen will be the ones used for your exercises in the "LEARN" section.

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REVIEW YOUR VOCABULARY LIST

What is the learning list?

The learning (or vocabulary) list contains all words that you have looked up and added in the SEARCH section.

How do I get to the learning list?

When you start vobot you will automatically be directed to the search screen. To access the learning list, just press the LEARN icon at the bottom your screen (you may need to close the keyboard in order to see it). If you are in the middle of doing exercises, just click the back arrow or hit the LEARN button to return to your learning list.

What happens when I press the "TEST NOW" or "ÜBUNGEN STARTEN" button?

When you press "TEST NOW/ÜBUNGEN STARTEN", you will be asked a question based on a random word from your learning list. After answering a question, you get immediate feedback about how you did. Press the "NEXT" button to get a question about another random word. In vobot German, depending on how successfully you have practiced a word in the past, you be asked an easy or a more difficult question. The most difficult question involves spelling the word in its entirety. So make sure you keep an eye on how the word is spelled as you progress through the exercises.

What is the "SHOW NEW" button all about? (vobot German only)

After you have been using vobot for a while, you should have a lot of words in your learning list. Some of them you have practiced already, others you have not yet practiced even once. SHOW NEW lets you see all of the unpracticed words, not only the ones you just added. In other words, you will see all of the words for which all 5 progress boxes are still empty.

What does the “SHOW ALL” button mean? (vobot German only)

SHOW ALL means you are currently viewing only the words you have not practiced yet. Press SHOW ALL in order to view all the words in your learning list, also the ones you have already successfully completed a few exercises for.

How do I delete a word from my learning list?

Swipe the word to the left and “delete” will appear. Sometimes this function appears to block if you delete a bunch of words one after the other. We are aware of this bug and are trying to fix it.

What are the empty boxes behind an entry in my learning list? (vobot German only)

With every word added to your list, the app creates 5 exercises. If all the boxes are empty, it simply means you have not successfully completed an exercise with that word yet. Once you complete the first exercise in the TEST NOW mode, the first box will be filled in, etc.

Why are there green boxes in the learning list? (vobot German only)

Green boxes show how many times you have practiced a word successfully. Once you successfully complete all 5 exercises for a word, that word will be moved to your “mastered list”.

How do I see the words I’ve completed? (vobot German only)

To view your “mastered list”, press the two arrows at the top right of your screen. A menu will appear with the option to view your mastered list.

Can I relearn the words I’ve completed? (vobot German only)

At the moment, it is not possible to move words in your mastered list back into your active learning list.

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LEARN IN A SERIES OF EXERCISES

How do I start the exercises?

To start the exercises, go to the LEARN mode and press TEST NOW. We recommend having at least 10 words in your learning list before you start practicing them.

What are the 5 exercises? (vobot German only)

vobot is designed to help you slowly commit a word to long-term memory. So the first two questions are a bit easier (multiple choice). The third exercise starts to prepare you for the last two, by taking a careful look at the spelling of the word. The trick is that German words are often written differently depending on the sentence they appear in. The last two exercises require you spell the word in the sample sentence.

How do I get back to the learning list again to see all my words?

There are two ways to get back to your learning list. Either press the LEARN icon at the bottom of the screen or the back button.

Do I lose all the exercises I was working on when I hit the back button or LEARN icon? (vobot German only)

No. Once you have successfully answered a question, one of the 5 boxes associated with that word is filled. That is real progress you have made which can no longer be lost. However, the series of 10 exercises you were working on is interrupted when you switch back to the learning list. That just means that you have to start from 1 again and work through 10 exercises before you see a summary of results. Keep in mind that this is just a review function for your reference, so it's not such a big loss.

What happens when I hit the back button?

Hitting the back button does not return you to the exercise you just finished. It takes you back to your learning list. If you want to review how you did on a past exercise, keep going through the exercises until you complete 10 of them. Then you will get a review of how you did on the exercises and the opportunity to review your mistakes.

How do I add the German or Georgian keyboard?

You can add the keyboard in the settings area of your mobile device. It will then automatically appear in vobot. You can find detailed instructions about adding keyboards in the settings/INFO area of vobot.

How do I type in an umlaut (ä ö ü)?

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How do I type an "ß"?

If you don't have the ß (called "Eszett" or "scharfes S") on your regular keyboard, just press and hold "s" until you see "ß" appear.

How do I get rid of the keyboard?

You can close the keyboard by pressing the "Search/Done/Enter" button. Before doing so you, make sure you have spelled the word as correctly as possible, because now vobot will tell you how you did.

Why do I have to spell the word from start to finish? Why can't I jump forward to fill in letters in the middle or the end and then work on the first letters later? (vobot German only)

vobot does not currently allow you to place the cursor in the middle of the word. You need to remember how the word is spelled from beginning to end and work your way through the letters consecutively.

I finished spelling the word, but the NEXT button is still inactive. What can I do? (vobot German only)

You need to press the "Search/Done/Enter" button on the keyboard. First, check to make sure there isn't any dot visible in the sample sentence, which means you still need to finish spelling the word. Second, your keyboard may have been hidden for some reason. To reopen the keyboard, click on the word in the sample sentence that needs to be spelled. Another possibility is that you are using an external keyboard. Then all you have to do is hit the "Enter" key. After that, you will be able to move forward again.

Does vobot offer spaced repetition?

vobot currently only supports mass repetition, that is you repeat the word again and again, possibly all in one day if you don't have a lot of words in your list and you spend a lot of time practicing. We are considering offering spaced repetition in the future, so you could only do one exercise of a word in one day and then you would have to wait a day or two to practice it again. This is a proven way to improve long-term retention.

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GENERAL QUESTIONS & ISSUES

Why does the vobot logo look like a bee?

The bee was inspired by the American tradition of the "spelling bee", actually a spelling contest often held in schools but also on a wider level. A core differentiator between vobot and other vocabulary trainer apps is that you actually have to spell a word before it is considered successfully learned.

What's the best way to use vobot?

You use vobot to look up words you don't understand and then practice them. The more words you have in your learning list, the more challenging and interesting it gets. You can also use vobot as a translation dictionary when travelling or anytime you want to write or say something in German or Georgian. The big advantage is that you can also add those words to your personalized learning list and practice them later to really commit them to memory!

Why is there a difference between the word I looked up and the word I have to spell in the sample sentence? (vobot German only)

German words very often change their spelling depending on how they are used in a sentence. By recognizing the difference between the base word and how the word is spelled in the sentence already exposes you to some of the trickiest things in the German language. It may not make sense now, but over time you will start to understand how it all fits together.

Where can I review the words that I have already practiced 5 times? (vobot German only)

All words that you have already learned will be moved to your "Mastered List". You can access it through the settings in the top right corner of the screen (double arrow pointing down). If you want to practice the word again, click on the entry and use the button "RELEARN WORD" at the bottom of the screen.

vobot crashed, what can I do?

Just restart the app. Please also help us improve vobot, by letting us know what happened. Send a description of what you did before the crash to support@vobot.com

Why are there no pictures to go with the vocabulary?

Pictures may often be misleading and for many words, especially more complex/abstract words, a picture does not really make sense. The advantage of vobot is that you learn a word in an authentic written context. This helps you create a mental image which will sit deeper in your mind for longer.

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Still need help? Please drop us a line at support@vobot.me