



ITALKI TUTORIAL

1. Link

<https://www.italki.com>

2. Short description of the tool

Italki is an online language learning platform which connects language learners and teachers through video chat. The site allows learners to find online teachers for 1-on-1 tutoring, and teachers to earn money as freelance tutors. Users can choose online language lessons taught by professional teachers, who provide structured learning plans, or a community tutor. Adult learners may also use the platform as a platform for mutual language exchange.

3. Which language competences can be developed with the help of this tool?

- Listening Comprehension
- Reading Comprehension
- Audio-visual (Watching TV, film & video)
- Spoken Production
- Spoken Interaction
- Online Interaction
- Interaction strategies
- Mediating communication
- Plurilingual and pluricultural competences

4. The requirements concerning the tool

The recommendations for teachers on **italki** are primarily to have an internet connection with at least 20 Mbps. While this is not required for all elements of the platform, it is a requirement to provide live online lessons.

Italki provides its own video communication (or VoIP) tool for teachers or learners but also recommends that teachers install at least 1 of the following communication VoIP tools (free versions of these tools are identified as acceptable).

- Skype
- Google Meet
- Facetime
- QQ
- WeChat

To operate on **italki** (or rather the VoIP tools outline above), a microphone and/or webcam is required. Headphones are also recommended.

5. Language of the tool

130 languages

6. Suggested language level (A1-C2)

A1☒ A2☒ B1☒ B2☒ C1☒ C2☒

7. What competences from DigCompEdu Framework does the tool develop?

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Professional Engagement | 1.4 Digital continuous professional development |
| 2. Digital Resources | 2.2 Creating and modifying digital resources |
| 3. Teaching and Learning | 3.1 Teaching |
| | 3.2 Guidance |
| | 3.3 Collaborative learning |
| 6. Facilitating Learners' Digital Competence | 6.2 Digital communication and collaboration |

8. How can the tool be used by teachers/learners?

Italki is an unusual tool in that it is a means of teachers to provide language learning to learners beyond their immediate class. **Italki** is a platform which is designed to facilitate language teachers to provide language teaching to adult learners who may require it on-demand. Anyone can apply to teach on **italki** and there are no clear requirements with regard to teaching qualifications, etc. - although it is recommended that any teachers have C2 or native proficiency in the language which they are teaching. Also, if a teacher wishes to teach a second language, they need to prove that they are at C2 level by speaking in that language during an Introduction video.

In addition to the standard “teacher” role, **italki** also offers different roles, such as a professional teacher or community tutor. If one has an official certification like TESOL, CELTA or a PGCE, they can be classed as a professional teacher. This allows the user to create courses and add course descriptions. Community tutors are only allowed to teach informal tutoring.

Given all of the above, **italki** is a tool which can be used by teachers to facilitate teaching beyond their current employment or activity. From this perspective, it represents a tool for professional development, as well as clearly offering monetary value to teachers.

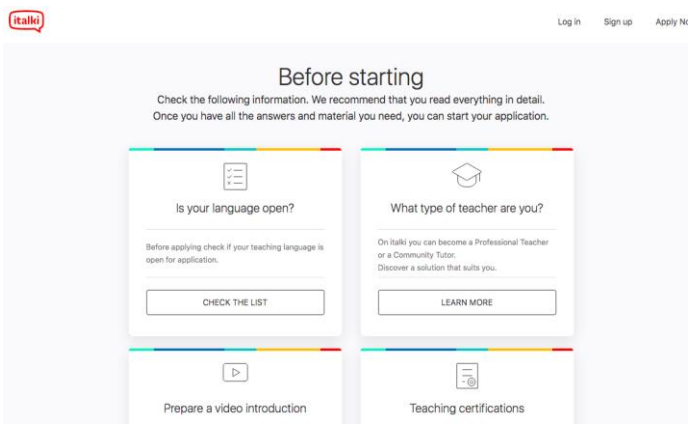

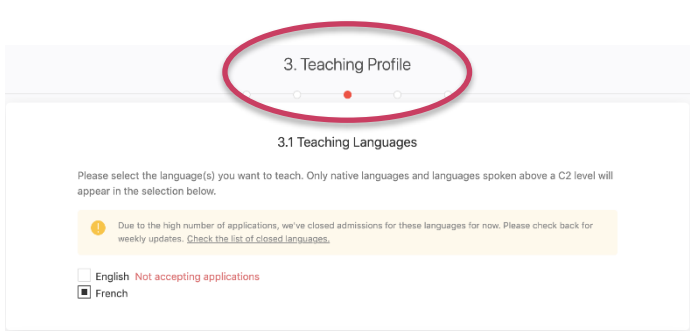
From a learner’s perspective, **italki** offers a highly effective (albeit paid) resource where they can engage with other users to deepen their language learning or to practise their learning with someone who speaks a language to a high level.

Italki is a well-structured platform with many sections, user friendly, also for beginners. It offers the possibility to use different kinds of teaching material such as:

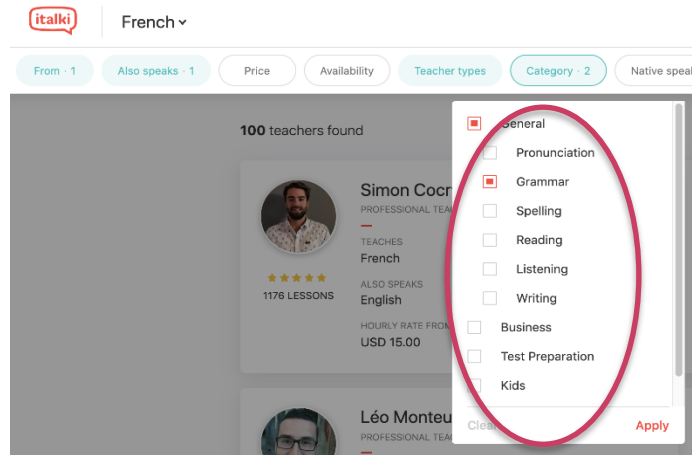
- PDF files
- Text documents,
- Presentations with slides / PPT
- Audio/video/Image file
- Flashcards
- Articles and news
- Quizzes
- Test models and examples
- Graphs and tables
- Assignment of tasks

9. Case study – example

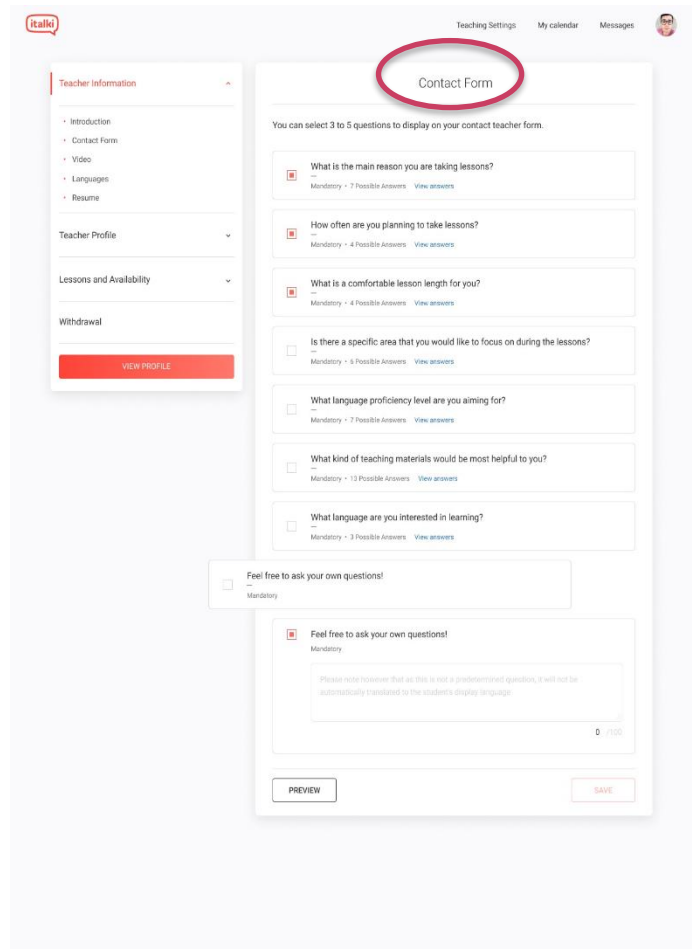
The process for getting ready to teach on *italki* can begin prior to actually enrolling on the system. A good first step is to ensure that you have the right equipment and setup as described in the requirements section.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The next step in the process of teaching on <i>italki</i> requires the creation of a profile and a structure for offering classes to learners. 2. The application process involves a submission via https://teach.italki.com. 3. Applications are reviewed by <i>italki</i> and applicants should be notified via email within 10 business days. If approved, applicants need to provide some form of identity document (passport, ID card, driving license ,etc.) |  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Applicants are required to update themselves on the <i>italki</i> system by watching teacher success videos, a teacher handbook, etc. 5. An applicant is finally required to book a group video call with <i>italki</i> Teacher Services as part of the onboarding process. |  |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Then you need to create a profile through which learners can find you in the system and apply for lessons with you. 7. A teacher is required to create a profile in the system. This involves identifying the language you are offering teaching in and the “Lesson categories” and tags. |  |

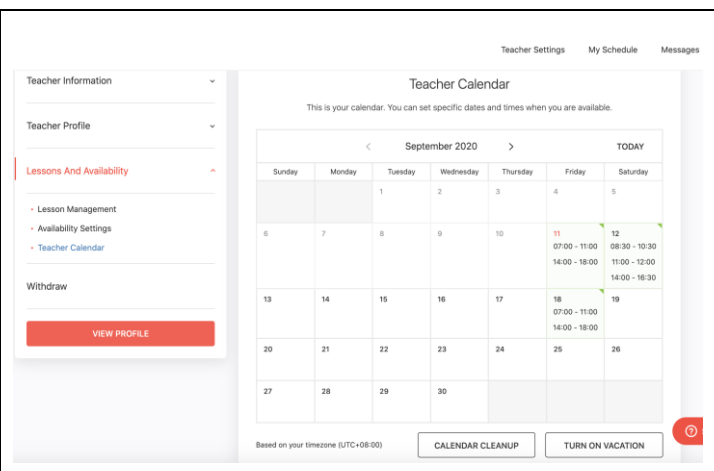
8. The type of lesson category determines the type of teaching you wish to provide. For instance, there are 5 lesson categories available for professional teachers to choose from: General, Business, Test Preparation, Kids and Conversation Practice.



9. Once a profile has been created, you can create a **Contact Form**. This is essentially a form which learners can fill in before booking a lesson. In this form, you can select add questions to determine what the learners is requesting (e.g. how often they wish to receive lessons, what their learning goals are, etc).



10. A final step involves creating a schedule and availability in the system. This indicates when you are available to provide lessons or work with adult learners. Learners can - on the basis of your schedule - book into your classes. You also need to set a pricing structure where you outline what you wish to charge learners.



Some good case studies with breakdowns on the process of becoming a tutor on *italki*, as well as relevant tips on how to advertise oneself on the platform are available on the *italki* website: <https://support.italki.com/hc/en-us/sections/900000274043-Teacher-Success-Stories>

10. Things you have to bear in mind when using the tool

- One key consideration for *italki* where it may differ from a lot of other digital tools is the pricing element. As a teacher, you can set your own prices for providing lessons. It is generally recommended to offer competitive pricing.
- It may be wise when starting to use *italki* to try and lower your pricing and just focus on getting used to the system and the process. When you are more comfortable in delivering training, you can increase your prices.
- Teachers in *italki* need to create their own schedules to indicate availability, so it is important to ensure that the availability you put down is reliable and consistent so as to avoid changing frequently (you want to avoid cancelling classes).
- Evaluating learners on the training you provide to them in the system is a good idea so that you can ensure that you are operating correctly - which can justify your pricing.
- It may be worthwhile to ask learners who are positive towards your teaching to provide you with some testimonials, which can help attract other learners in the system.
- If recommending *italki* to your own learners as a digital resource, be aware that it is a paid system. Equally, however, for proficient learners, they may be able to use it as a resource for teaching if appropriate.
- Payment in the system is done via a “teacher wallet”. After registering for a class with you, learners have three days to confirm their class, if they don’t do it in this time, payment is taken from them.
- If learners attend a class, then once that class has been completed, the money will go into your teacher wallet and can be withdrawn on certain dates each month depending on your withdrawal method.
- *Italki* has a “vacation mode”, where you can indicate that you are not holding classes and which will stop learners from booking.
- It is possible in *italki* to stop accepting new learners which will limit the number of learners you take on or how many can register for a class of yours.
- Remember to find a quiet space for delivery of the classes without background noise.



11. Similar tools

Duolingo

<https://www.duolingo.com>

Verbling

<https://www.verbling.com/>

Preply

<https://preply.com/>

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