

5 Best German-English Dictionaries Online, Offline, Apps & Add-Ons

André Klein · Thursday, June 8th, 2017

Whenever people ask me which online [German-English](#) dictionary is the best, whether to use an app, a browser extension, an offline lookup tool or just go full retro and lug around a paper dictionary, I always answer: “Whatever works for you is best.”

Most online dictionaries today are high quality and will translate most words and even phrases without a hitch. But since there are still key differences in terms of layout, results and other features, I’d like to share a quick overview of my favorite German-English dictionaries in this post.

[Dict.cc](#)

Englisch		Deutsch	
–		NOUN	der <u>Frosch</u> die Frösche edit
frog	zool.	Frosch {m}	1347
squib [small firework]		Frosch {m} [Knallfrosch]	12
paddock [archaic or Scot.] [frog]	zool.	Frosch {m}	7
frog [bow]	mus.	Frosch {m} [Bogen]	
nut [bow]	mus.	Frosch {m} [Bogen]	
chimb	spec.	Frosch {m} [Teil der Fassdauben, der über die Böden hervorsteht]	
chime	spec.	Frosch {m} [Teil der Fassdauben, der über die Böden hervorsteht]	
chine [chime]	spec.	Frosch {m} [Teil der Fassdauben, der über die Böden hervorsteht]	

2 Wörter: Andere

at the frog	mus.	am Frosch [unteres Ende des Streichinstrument-Bogens]	
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2 Wörter: Substantive

Archey's frog [Leiopelma archeyi]	zool.	Archey- Frosch {m}	
hybrid rush [Juncus hybridus, syn.: J. ambiguus]	bot.	Frosch-Binse {f}	
seaside toad rush [Juncus hybridus, syn.: J. ambiguus]	bot.	Frosch-Binse {f}	

This is by far one of my favorite German-English dictionaries online. It doesn't have tons of bells and whistles, the design may be somewhat outdated, but its real strength is in the results, which include many idiomatic phrases and terminology from a [variety of fields](#). Since every user can contribute, correct and verify translations dict.cc is something like the Wikipedia of German-English dictionaries: open, fast and community-driven. But don't take my word for it. The proof is in the pudding!

- [Vocabulary Trainer](#)
- [Pronunciation Audio](#)
- [iOS App](#)
- [Android App](#)
- [Free Database download](#)

Home Wörterbuch Forum Trainer Kurse Toolbars & Apps Hilfe & Weiteres Page in English Anmelden

LEO Werbung

Weitere Wörterbücher

English ↔ Deutsch

Forum Trainer

Frosch

Suchoptionen

Suchtipps

804.602 Einträge, 3.358.551 Anfragen

In einem Text suchen

Substantive :: Phrasen :: Ähnliche :: Suchumfeld :: Diskussionen

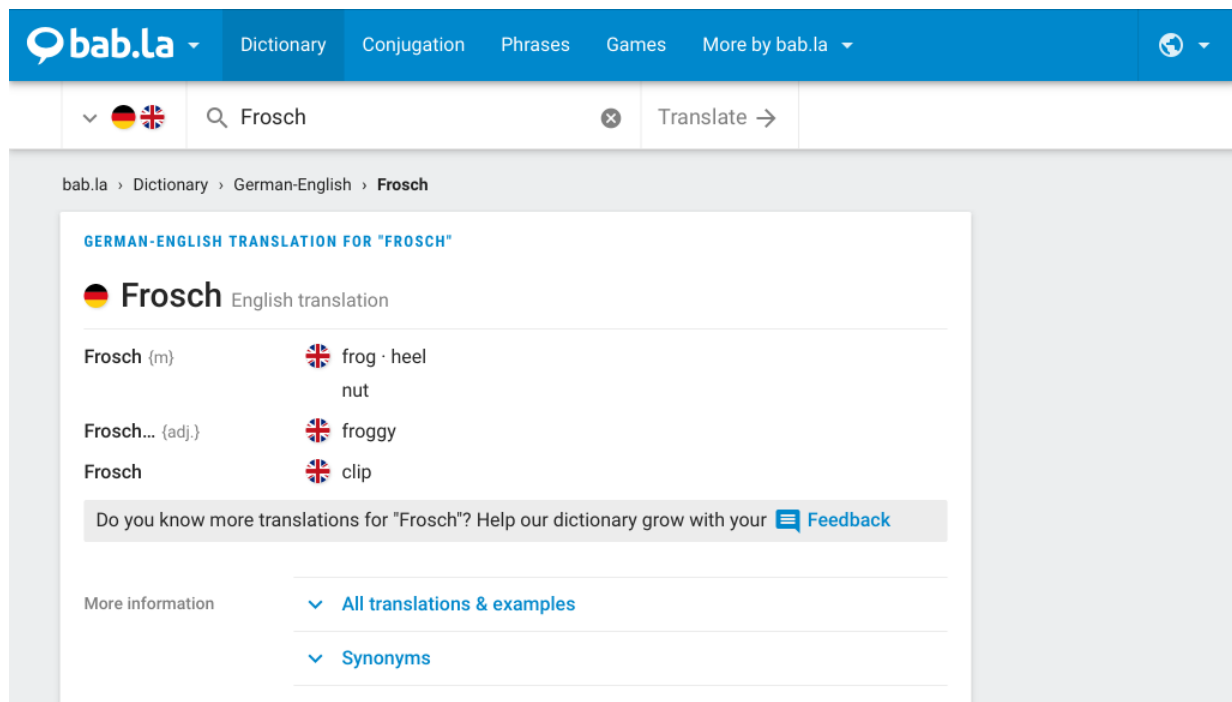
Substantive		
🔒 ⓘ	🔍 frog [ZOO.]	🔍 der Frosch Pl.: die Frösche
🔒 ⓘ	🔍 eccentric clamp	🔍 der Frosch Pl.: die Frösche
🔒 ⓘ	🔍 squib	🔍 der Frosch Pl.: die Frösche
🔒 ⓘ	🔍 paddock (Brit.) [obs.]	🔍 der Frosch Pl.: die Frösche
🔒 ⓘ	Moore's frog [ZOO.]	🔍 Moorescher (auch: Moore'scher) Frosch wiss.: <i>Litoria moorei</i>
🔒 ⓘ	motorbike frog [ZOO.]	🔍 Moore'scher (auch: Moorescher) Frosch wiss.: <i>Litoria moorei</i>
🔒 ⓘ	Western green and golden bell frog [ZOO.]	🔍 Moore'scher (auch: Moorescher) Frosch wiss.: <i>Litoria moorei</i>
🔒 ⓘ	frog rush [BOT.]	🔍 die Froschbinse auch: Frosch-Binse wiss.: <i>Juncus ranarius (ambiguus)</i>
🔒 ⓘ	seaside rush [BOT.]	🔍 die Froschbinse auch: Frosch-Binse wiss.: <i>Juncus ranarius (ambiguus)</i>

Phrasen		
🔒 ⓘ	🔍 frog in the throat	🔍 Frosch im Hals

In terms of features and quality this one is very similar to dict.cc, so it may just be a matter of preference – some of my German teaching colleagues swear by Leo, some by Dict.cc. In my experience, Leo may not always display as many results as dict.cc but one cool feature is that the results include forum entries that discuss the queried word which sometimes helps to clear up certain nuances. Leo has a very active community and the forum is always worth a visit when you're stuck finding a translation. Another nice feature is that it shows you orthographically similar words on results pages. Recently, Leo also started providing for-pay (free-trial available) [language learning courses](#), which may be helpful for beginners.

- ❌ [Vocabulary Trainer](#)
- ❌ [Pronunciation Audio](#)
- ❌ [iOS App](#)
- ❌ [Android App](#)
- ❌ [Windows Phone App](#)
- ❌ [Firefox-Add-on](#)
- ❌ [Chrome-Extension](#)

Bab.la



The screenshot shows the Bab.la website interface. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with the Bab.la logo and links for Dictionary, Conjugation, Phrases, Games, and More by bab.la. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar with the word 'Frosch' entered and a 'Translate' button. The search results are displayed in a white box with a blue header 'GERMAN-ENGLISH TRANSLATION FOR "FROSCH"'. The main entry is 'Frosch' with a German flag icon and the text 'English translation'. Below this, there are three entries: 'Frosch {m}' with a British flag icon and translations 'frog · heel' and 'nut'; 'Frosch... {adj.}' with a British flag icon and translation 'froggy'; and 'Frosch' with a British flag icon and translation 'clip'. At the bottom of the search results, there is a 'More information' section with two expandable options: 'All translations & examples' and 'Synonyms'. A feedback prompt is also visible: 'Do you know more translations for "Frosch"? Help our dictionary grow with your Feedback'.

First of all, bab.la has a really clean and neat design, and in terms of presentation is probably one of my favorites. Search results are very easy to navigate and always come with synonyms, examples and context. On top of this very solid and beautifully designed dictionary, bab.la offers many other helpful features such as a [conjugation browser](#), [quizzes](#), [grammar overview](#) and [games](#).

- Pronunciation Audio
- iOS App (discontinued)

Pons.com

The screenshot shows the PONS Online Dictionary interface. At the top, there is a green header with the PONS logo, navigation links for 'ONLINE DICTIONARY' and 'PUBLISHER', and user options like 'English', 'Contact', 'Login', and a shopping cart icon. Below the header, a navigation bar includes 'Dictionary', 'Text Translation', 'Vocabulary trainer', 'Forum', and 'Tools & Downloads'. The main content area features a search bar with 'Frosch' entered, language dropdowns for 'German' and 'English', and a search icon. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'Dictionary' and 'Usage Examples'. The dictionary entry for 'Frosch' is displayed, showing its German origin, phonetic transcription, and gender. It lists two meanings: 'Frosch' as a ZOOLOGICAL term (frog) and 'Frosch' as a colloquialism for 'firecracker' and 'jumping jack'. A section for 'Phrases' includes 'einen Frosch im Hals haben' (to have a frog in one's throat), 'sei kein Frosch!' (be a sport!), and 'sei kein Frosch!' (don't be a spoilsport!). To the right, there is a yellow promotional banner for the PONS Online Dictionary and a blue 'Vocabulary collection' box with a message: '(No vocabulary found. Please click on + to add vocabulary.)'. A vertical 'Feedback' button is located on the far right.

This online dictionary is provided by Pons, a renowned German publisher of dictionaries that was established in 1978. Just like their paper publications, the Pons online dictionary features a very clean layout and solid translations. One feature that I really like is that it shows “Usage Examples”, i.e. actual real-world examples how the word or phrase is used on websites.

- [Vocabulary Trainer](#) (also available as app)
- [Pronunciation Audio](#)
- [iOS App](#)
- [Android App](#)

[Linguee.com](#)

Dictionary German-English

Frosch *noun, masculine*

frog *n* (almost always used)

Der Lebenszyklus eines Frosches besteht aus mehreren Stadien.

The life cycle of a frog consists of various stages.

less common:

paddock *n* · squib *n*

Examples:

grüner Frosch *m* – green frog *n*

Los! Sei kein Frosch *interj* – Go on! It's a dare! *interj*

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External sources (not reviewed)

[...] ein, um karten fliegen zu sehen, die prinzeßin zieht dem frosch ihre zofe vor, das edle ross ist ein motorrad und rotkäppchen [...]

↳ [j-maya.de](#)

[...] in order to see flying cards, the princess choosing her maid over the frog, the great horse is a motorcycle and little red [...]

↳ [j-maya.de](#)

⚠ [...] nichts von der Vogel-Grundform oder der damit verwandten Frosch-Grundform, bis um 1870 herum japanische Zauberkünstler diese [...]

↳ [papierfalten.de](#)

⚠ [...] waterbomb base, we did not know the bird base or its related frog base until sometime around 1870, when Japanese conjurors [...]

↳ [papierfalten.de](#)

Last but not least, I'd like to mention *linguee* which is a bit different because strictly speaking it's not a dictionary but a search-engine for translations. You can also use it lookup simple words but its real strength lies in searching through a vast database of translations. For example, if a web-site has multiple language versions, *Linguee* will show you two sentences that include your query side by side. When you struggle with translating a certain word in context, *Linguee* will show you how other people before you have solved it.

❌ Pronunciation Audio

❌ iOS App

❌ Android App

Which is your favorite dictionary? Do you prefer an online version, app or paper edition? Let me know in the comments!