


There's an app for that!

Im digitalen Mittelalter war mobiles Lernen auf den MP3-Player beschränkt. In der inzwischen angebrochenen IT-Neuzeit sind dem ortsunabhängigen Lernen mit allen Sinnen kaum noch Grenzen gesetzt. Das stellte **DAGMAR TAYLOR** fest, als sie sich in der Welt der „Winzprogramme“ für Smartphones umschaute. Hier ihre Auswahl. 

Audiobooks, podcasts and radio, online newspapers and videos — with a smartphone in your hand, you can make the most of a world of learning opportunities at home, on the train or in the doctor's waiting room. With its all-touch screen and huge memory, the iPhone has changed the nature of smartphones. And with the option of downloading software that is of use to you, you can customize your phone or mobile device (*Handgerät*) to do things the way that makes most sense to you.

Apps — short for “software applications” — are programs that are either built into your smartphone, such as the calculator, maps or weather app, or software programs you download directly to your phone or on to a computer via iTunes (see page 18). Need a new shirt, the works of Shakespeare, a recipe (*Kochrezept*)? Whatever you want, there's an app for it.

Apps are hot! And with the launch of the iPad this year, they're going to get a lot hotter. On these pages, we have selected some of the hottest for learning English.



The smartphone:
it's all at
your fingertips

Language learning

With a busy schedule, a family to take care of and friends to meet, it's not easy to stick to the promise you've made yourself to be more disciplined about learning

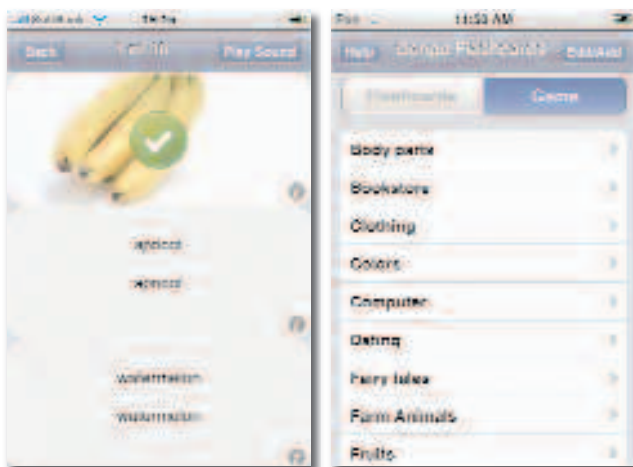
vocabulary and grammar. With a smartphone and these handy (*praktisch*) apps, you'll be able to practise English whenever you have the time, wherever you are.



British English Gengo flashcards

If, like many people, you find it easy to learn vocabulary when you can see a word as you hold its picture in your hand, then you'll love these flashcards (*Lernkarte*). The size of the smartphone screen is perfect for the flashcard format. To learn new words, look at an image, then play the sound to hear what the object is. Test yourself by listening to a word and touching the corresponding image. Touch the info button to see the word on the back of the card. You then decide whether you know the word or would like to be tested on it again. Feedback is instant or at the end of the set of cards. With the camera and voice recorder that are built into some phones you can even create your own flashcards with pictures and audio — it's easy and motivating. Learning vocabulary just became a lot more fun.

Website:	www.innovativelanguage.com
Devices:	Android, iPhone and iPod Touch
Offline use:	yes
Level:	from A1
Price:	€4.99



English Grammar in Use activities

This app is definitely worth having. You probably already know Raymond Murphy's book *English Grammar in Use* as a reliable source of grammar explanations and exercises. Now you can practise or refresh your grammar while you're on the move without having to carry a book with you. The app includes exercises on basic areas of grammar such as the tenses, phrasal verbs, relative clauses and prepositions. Select a unit to study, and be corrected as you work or when you've finished. Most exercises include audio pronunciation of example sentences. Sometimes there is also an option for you to record and listen to your own pronunciation. It's a pity, though, that the recording options cover up the sentences. The app also includes a helpful glossary of the words used in the exercises.

By:	Cambridge University Press
Devices:	iPhone and iPod Touch
Offline use:	yes
Level:	from A2
Price:	€7.99



Downloads and updates

Many apps, once downloaded, are fully functional. Some apps, such as news apps, require updates (*Aktualisierung*). Depending on your internet connection, this may take some time and can be frustrating. All smartphones can access the internet, but not all of them do so at the same speed. The fastest is the 3G network

("3G" stands for "third generation"). But the speed of your network will depend on your provider and on your location. Some apps will require you to enable (*aktivieren*) a Wi-Fi ['waɪ faɪ] connection via a wireless (*drahtlos*) network, which is usually fast and reliable.