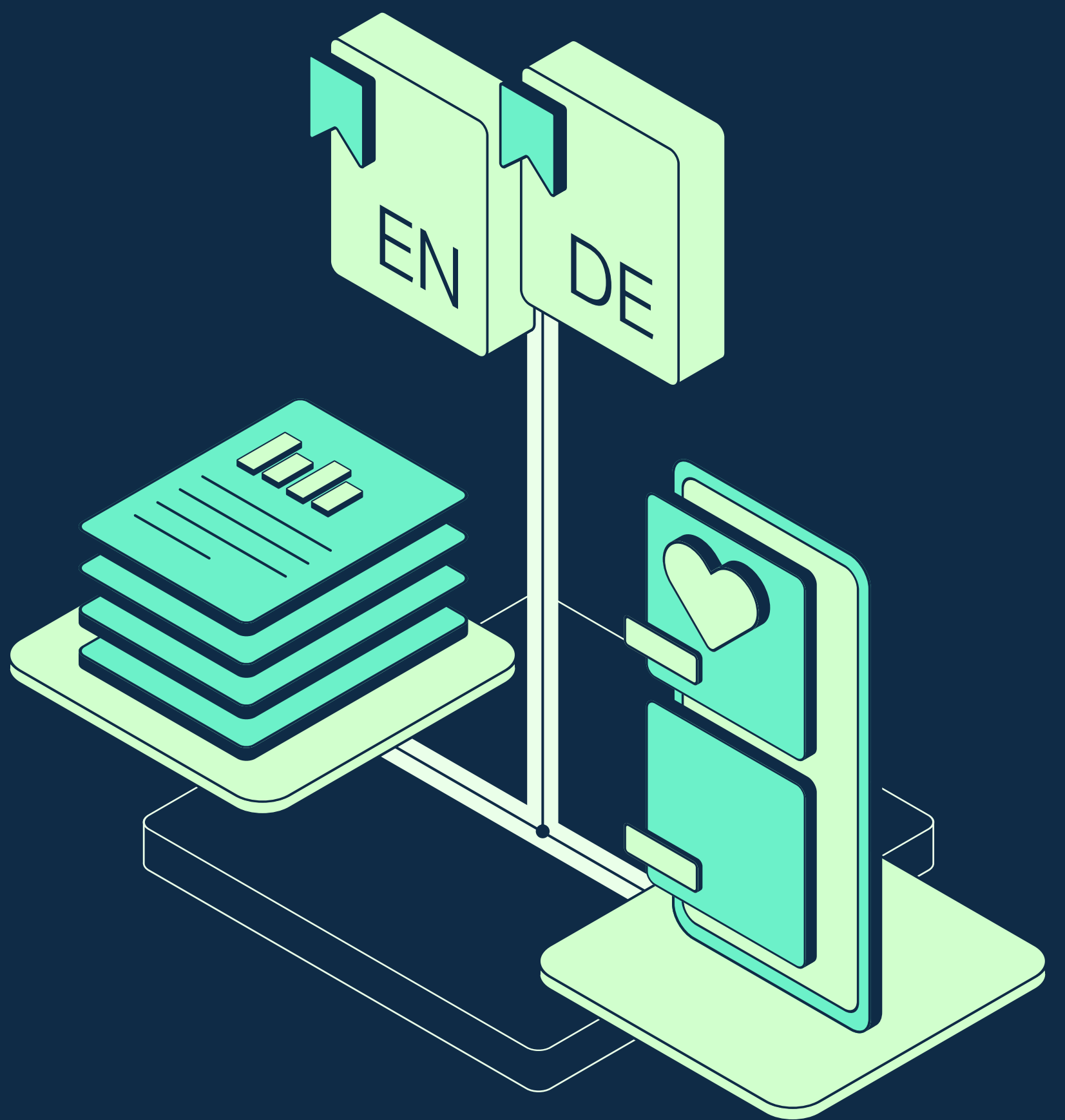


DeepL glossary: a technical overview

How to unlock superior translation consistency and why it matters



DeepL

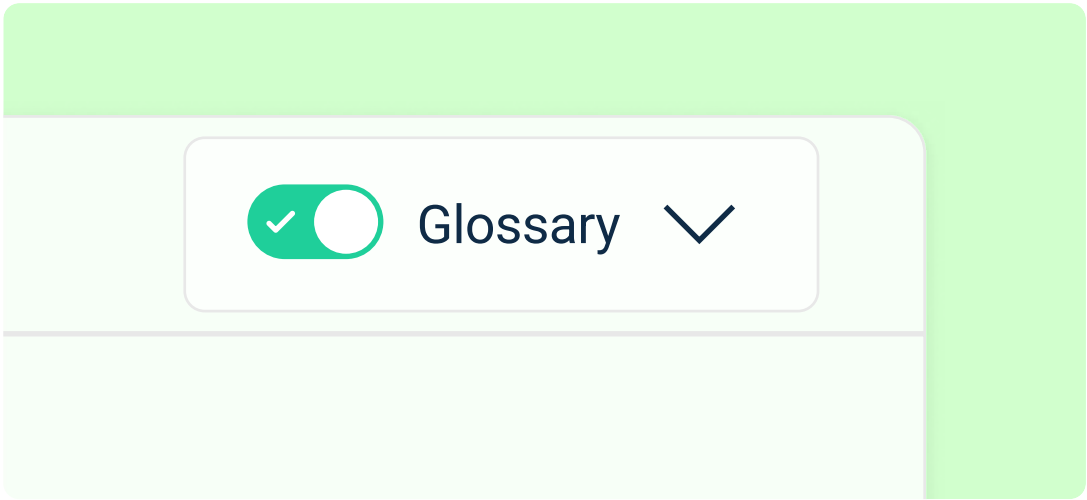
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1 Executive summary

The DeepL glossary enhances the translation process by enabling teams to specify how certain words or phrases are translated, ensuring that every translation conforms to company-specific terminology. This tool not only stores terms but also intelligently incorporates them into translations, adeptly adjusting for grammar and syntax.

In this whitepaper, you will learn why DeepL glossary is considered a leader in translation technology, how to use it effectively, and understand the unique features that differentiate it from other products.



2 Problem statement

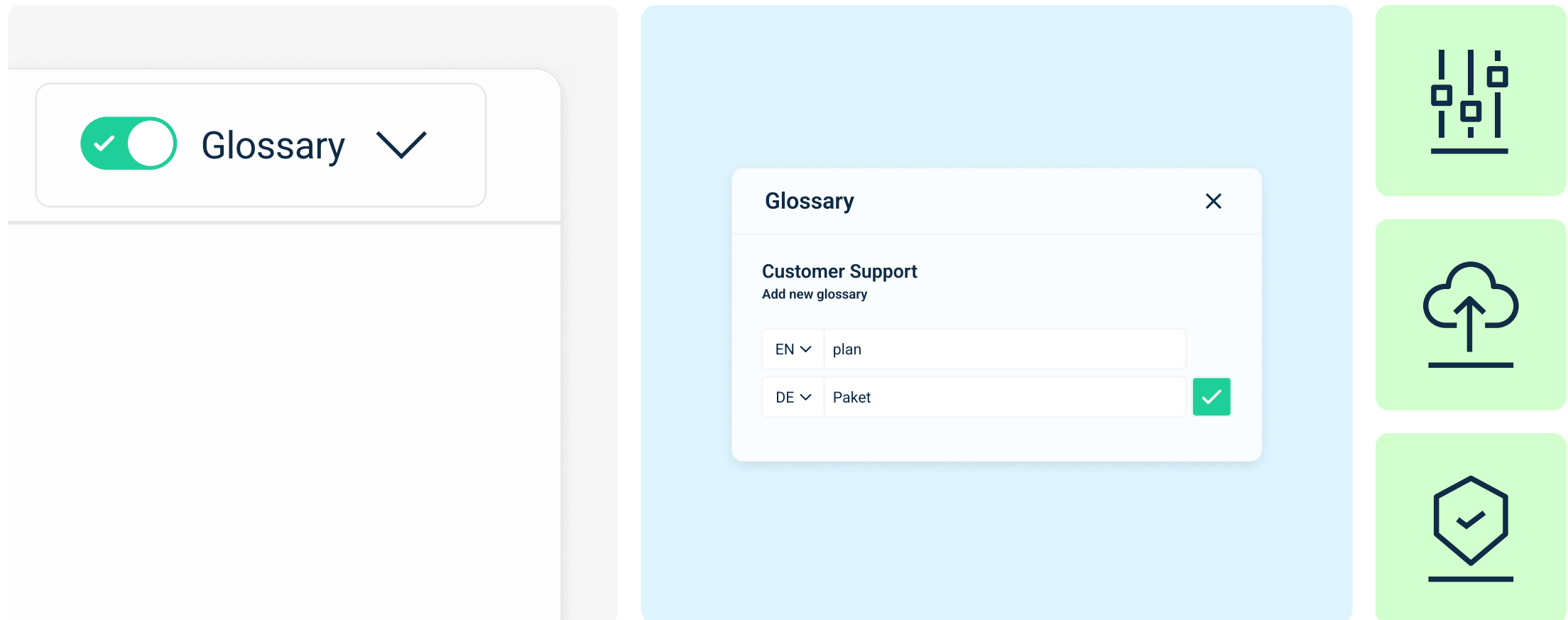
When your team is competing in the global market, maintaining consistent company language across all communications is crucial. **Whether it's translating technical terminology, product names, or branded terms, companies must ensure that every message resonates clearly and consistently with teams, customers, and markets worldwide.**

However, achieving this level of consistency can be both costly and complex, often requiring extensive manual editing and reliance on cumbersome systems. Companies are in dire need of a streamlined, cost-effective solution to manage their multilingual communications without sacrificing quality or efficiency.

Enter DeepL glossary. This AI-powered feature is expertly designed to help teams scale high-quality, consistent translations swiftly. The glossary maintains nuanced, natural-sounding translations by not just standardizing terms, but also by intelligently adapting them to fit the context. By automating consistent company language, the glossary dramatically cuts down the time and expense typically associated with manual translation edits.

Leading organizations worldwide rely on DeepL glossary to enhance the quality and consistency of their communications.

3 Solution overview



What is DeepL glossary capable of?

DeepL glossary is not just a collection of terms; it's a dynamic repository where each entry—be it a word, phrase, or entire sentence—defines the precise translation your team needs.

But DeepL glossary goes beyond simple find-and-replace functions. Its real power lies in its sophisticated technology that seamlessly incorporates these entries into translations without any need for manual intervention. This means your team can maintain the integrity and nuance of the original message effortlessly.

For example, the glossary is intuitively designed to handle various inflections of a word automatically. For instance, if you set the English verb "to hide" to be translated into German as "ausblenden," the glossary intelligently applies this translation to related forms like "hides" or "hidden," adjusting the target term to fit the context perfectly.

This capability ensures that your team's communications are not only consistent but also contextually accurate, enhancing clarity and professionalism in every interaction.

What sets DeepL glossary apart?

The ability to handle and adapt to various grammatical structures is a standout feature of DeepL glossary, distinguishing it from other offerings on the market.

While many translation providers feature some form of glossary functionality, they often fall short in their ability to manage complex grammar and seamlessly integrate terms into the broader context of a translation. This is particularly crucial for languages with complex grammatical structures, such as German or Polish.

At DeepL, the glossary isn't just an add-on; it's an integral part of our translation models. Extensive linguistic expertise is embedded in both the training process and the actual translation phase, enabling the glossary to automatically make grammatical modifications and intelligently consider the translation's context.

This capability is essential for handling simple word inflections. It also helps make more complex adjustments, such as when the glossary entry's application requires a deeper contextual understanding. The tool is also able to discern and disregard misleading entries. This sophisticated approach ensures that every translation is both accurate and contextually appropriate.

DeepL glossaries in practice

Time to see DeepL glossary feature in action. Let’s look at a few examples of how glossary entries are applied.

Translation without glossary (EN → DE)

After having signed up for a DeepL Pro Advanced or Ultimate plan, you can create up to 2000 glossaries. Advanced and Ultimate features also include sharing glossaries with your team.

↔

Nachdem Sie sich für einen DeepL Pro Advanced oder Ultimate Plan angemeldet haben, können Sie bis zu 2000 Glossare erstellen. Zu den erweiterten und ultimativen Funktionen gehört auch die gemeinsame Nutzung von Glossaren durch Ihr Team.

Glossary entries

sign up	registrieren
plan	Paket
DeepL Pro	DeepL Pro
Advanced	Advanced
Ultimate	Ultimate

Improved translation with glossary

Nachdem Sie sich für ein DeepL Pro Advanced oder Ultimate Paket registriert haben, können Sie bis zu 2000 Glossare erstellen. Advanced und Ultimate umfassen auch die gemeinsame Nutzung von Glossaren mit Ihrem Team.

In this example, the glossary identifies “having signed up” as a variation of “to sign up”. The target term is then integrated into the translation and adjusted accordingly. The translation of “plan” is also adapted. In addition, the glossary ensures branded product names are kept intact.

Let’s compare DeepL’s result with a different provider. Translating the same sentence with the same glossary using the glossary feature of a different provider yields:

After having signed up for a DeepL Pro Advanced or Ultimate plan, you can create up to 2000 glossaries. Advanced and Ultimate features also include sharing glossaries with your team.

↔

Nachdem Sie sich für einen DeepL Pro Advanced- oder Ultimate-Plan angemeldet haben, können Sie bis zu 2000 Glossare erstellen. Zu den Advanced- und Ultimate-Funktionen gehört auch das Teilen von Glossaren mit Ihrem Team.

Here, the glossary entries for both “sign up” (which is inflected in the sentence) and “plan” (possibly because the translation is part of a compound term “Ultimate-Plan”) are not correctly applied in the translation. This would require human editing to get the correct translation result.

Here’s a more technical example:

Translation without glossary (DE → EN)

Die attach()-Funktion bindet das spezifische Dataframe, das durch den übergebenen Namen identifiziert wird, in den aktuellen Workspace ein.

↔

The attach() function attaches the specific dataframe, which is identified by the transferred name, to the current workspace.

Glossary entry

einbinden to integrate

Improved translation with glossary

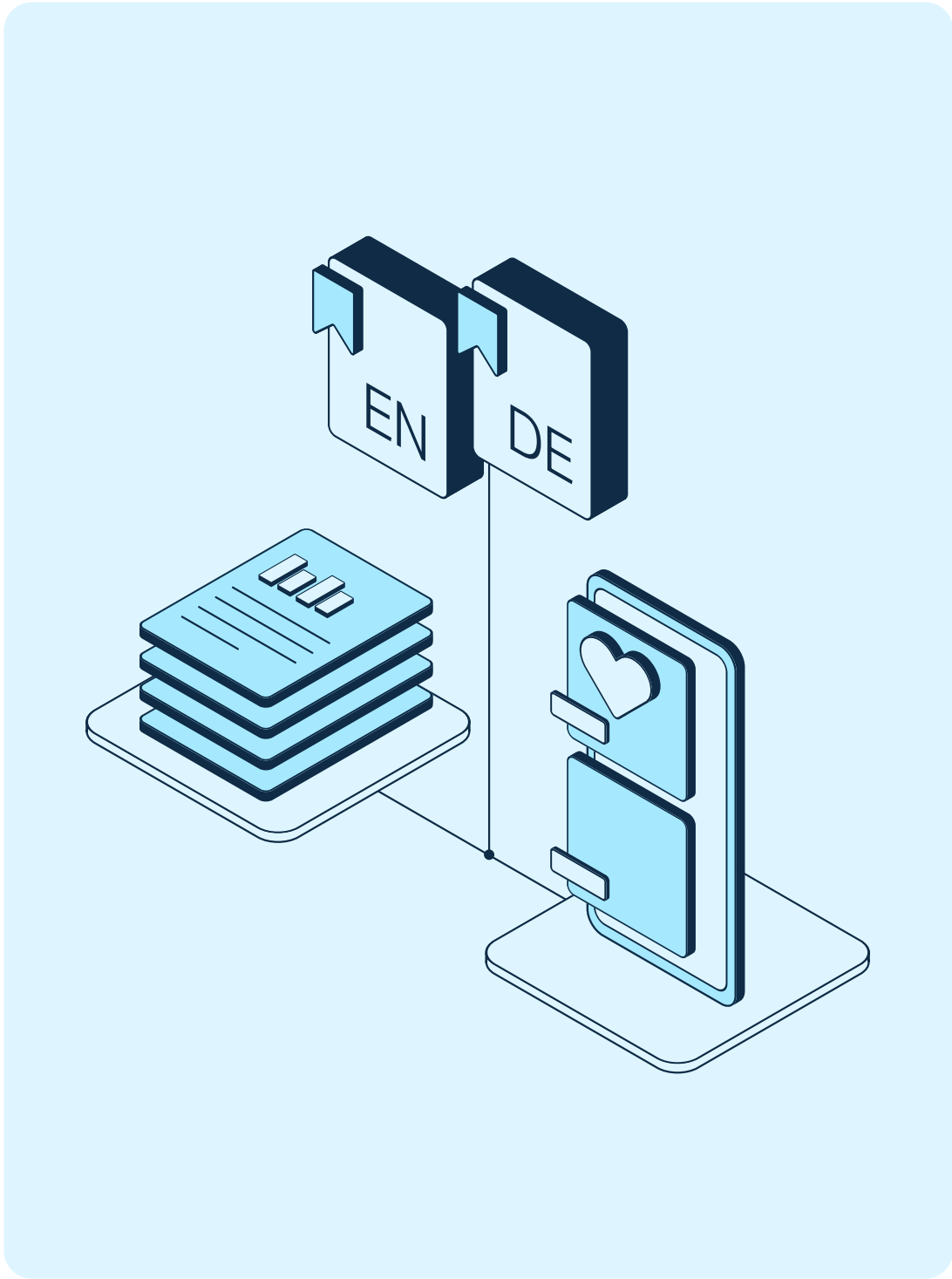
The attach() function integrates the specific dataframe, which is identified by the transferred name, into the current workspace.

In this example, the term “einbinden” is both inflected and distributed across the sentence. Nevertheless, the model is able to recognize and apply the corresponding glossary entry.

Now, let’s look at how the glossary’s ability to ignore irrelevant entries comes into play:

Translation without glossary (EN → DE)	
DeepL supports speech and text as input to the translator.	↔ DeepL unterstützt Sprache und Text als Eingabe für den Übersetzer.
Glossary entry	
speech to text	Speech-to-Text

In this example, all the words contained in the term “speech to text” are present in the sentence. However, they do not form a common unit of meaning. DeepL’s models are trained to use the wider context to ignore the glossary entry in such a case.



Without DeepL glossary, companies might opt to train their own custom models, as offered by other providers. While such a model would be able to pick up custom terminology as well as styles, any new terminology would require the model to be retrained.

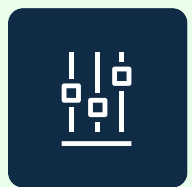
With glossaries, on the other hand, you can easily add new terms by updating the glossary entries. Glossaries also enable direct control over exactly what terminology should be applied, leading to more predictable results. This, in turn, allows for more confidence in the results.

Moreover, custom models often require the user to perform the quality control themselves, which creates more work. In addition, translation quality can suffer when the model is applied to texts that vary from the training data.

With DeepL glossary, we evaluate quality with the help of human language experts—making glossaries an easier, more trustworthy choice for businesses.

4 Best practices when creating a glossary

Ready to start working with this powerful tool? Here are some essential tips to get started.



When crafting a glossary, there is some flexibility in defining terms, but for optimal results, it's best to provide entries in their most natural form. Ideally, verbs should be in the infinitive form (e.g., "to purchase"), and nouns in the nominative singular (e.g., "package"), adhering to the capitalization norms of the language.



You'll also need to carefully consider whether it's necessary to include a term or phrase in the glossary. For detailed instructions on crafting a high-quality glossary, please consult our guide: [DeepL Glossary: best practices](#).



Building a glossary from the ground up requires effort and time. To streamline this process, we are developing a feature that automatically extracts glossary entries from your existing translations by identifying consistently used language. This glossary generator is currently in open beta for German ↔ English and English → Spanish, with more languages to come.



5 Technical details

Glossaries are currently supported for 15 languages, resulting in a total of 105 glossary language pairs, and we are continuously working on extending the language coverage.

DeepL currently supports glossaries for:

DA (Danish)	NB (Norwegian bokmål)
DE (German)	NL (Dutch)
EN (English)	PL (Polish)
ES (Spanish)	PT (Portuguese, both European and Brazilian)
FR (French)	RU (Russian)
IT (Italian)	SV (Swedish)
JA (Japanese)	ZH (Chinese)
KO (Korean)	

As with everything else offered through DeepL Pro, the data security of glossaries is taken very seriously. All DeepL Pro products offer enhanced data security, including proprietary data centers based in the EEA, the highest level of certification and compliance standards (ISO 27001 certification, GDPR/SOC 2 Type 2 compliance), and our commitment to never using Pro customer data to train our models.



6 Conclusion

The glossary is an indispensable tool that ensures consistent communication across your company while significantly reducing the need for costly post-editing.

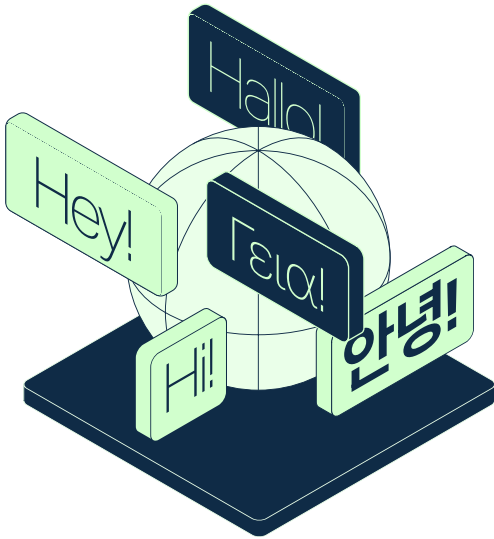
The DeepL glossary feature stands out due to its sophisticated ability to seamlessly incorporate context and handle complex grammatical adaptations. This capability is achieved by integrating the glossary functionality directly into our model training, thereby enhancing its effectiveness across a wide range of terminology and languages.

Since its launch, the glossary has continuously been improved by expanding its language support and enhancing management and access features. It now supports a broader array of platforms and products and includes glossary generation tools. These advancements have established the glossary as a dynamic and robust tool for global teams.

Watch your business grow with DeepL Pro

Is your team looking for Language AI tools to help you cut back on operating costs and grow your business?

[Learn more](#)



People and their communication challenges are at the heart of everything we do. Founded in 2017 by German researchers, DeepL is the world's most accurate Language AI technology, enabling businesses to communicate confidently around the world. DeepL's platform is accessible in 30+ languages across the web translator, browser extensions, desktop and mobile apps, and an API.



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