

**A MANUAL OF
GERMAN PREFIXES
AND SUFFIXES**

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BY

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PREFACE.

The plan of this manual, which is submitted, with no little diffidence, to teachers and students of German, does not include the etymology of the prefixes and suffixes. The book is designed simply as a practical aid to students who may wish to gain a nearer sense than even the best dictionaries give, of the meaning of German words.

There is no similar manual, so far as I know, in any language. I have borrowed help from many sources, the principal of which are Grimm's *Deutsches Wörterbuch*, so far as published; Sanders's *Wörterbuch der Deutschen Sprache*, 3 vols., Leipzig, 1876; Sanders's *Wörterbuch Deutscher Synonymen* (1882); Sanders's *Neue Beiträge zur deutschen Synonymik* (1881); Meyer's *Handwörterbuch sinnverwandter Ausdrücke* (1863); Eberhard's *Synonymisches Handwörterbuch der deutschen Sprache* (1882); Heyse's *Deutsche Schulgrammatik* (1864). I have had also the aid and suggestions of my colleagues, Professor P. Schweitzer, Ph. D., and Professor W. B. Smith,

Ph. D., (both of Göttingen), who both read the first draft of this manual

I have left out some prefixes, such as *wohl*, and some suffixes, such as *arm*, where the meanings are sufficiently clear from the common school dictionaries. I say *prefixes* and *suffixes*, in such cases, because they have about attained such a power. I do not here make any attempt to distinguish between *Derivation* and *Composition*, which however useful it may be to the scholar, is of small service to one who is merely desirous of knowing the power of the particles.

As to the orthography, I have tried to follow the old. The larger number of examples given is from classic German sources.

J. S. BLACKWELL

COLUMBIA, Mo., Jan. 16, 1888.

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Ab (separable prefix).

1. **Ab** expresses originally *separation*: e. g., er hat die reife Frucht abgeschüttelt (he has shaken off the ripe fruit); die Flinte wird abgeschossen (the gun is fired off); der Rosenstock hat abgeblüht (the rose-bush has dropped its blossoms).

2. Separation may pass into the notion of *transference*: e. g., Ich habe den Brief abgegeben (I have delivered the letter); er blies das Stück ab (he played off the piece); ich kann nicht-absehen, wohin das Wasser abläuft (I cannot see where the water has its outlet). In the last example, absehen may be regarded as signifying "to see from a distance and to report to one's self what is seen."

3. Separation may be *gradual*, or *by piece-meal*, or *in parts*: e. g., der Hut ist abgegriffen (the hat is worn out, i. e., thumbed away); die Tropfen müssen endlich den Stein ab (the drops at last wear away

the stone); der Geist ist frisch, der Leib stirbt ab (the mind is bright, the body is gradually decaying); ich habe das Kleid abgeändert (I have altered somewhat the dress, *i. e.*, in some of its parts; verändern [v. **ver**] would mean *in all its parts*).

4. Separation may be entire: hence, **ab** may denote *accomplishment, execution, completion* of what is signified in the verb with which it is associated: *e. g.*, als mich die Mutter den Knaben küssen sah, strafte sie mich ab (when my mother saw me kiss the boy, she punished me roundly); die Wahl ist abgehalten worden (the election has been held); die Sache ist abgemacht (the matter is settled).

5. Complete separation may pass into renunciation: hence, **ab** may denote *to prevent, to set aside, to get rid of*, in the manner of the verb: *e. g.*, der erwartete Besuch wurde abgeschrieben (the expected visit was prevented, *i. e.*, by written communication); er schwur seine Schulden ab (he denied his debts on oath). V. **ent**, and compare *abjagen* with *entsagen*.

6. When the verb already expresses separation, **ab** merely emphasizes the meaning: *e. g.*, *absondern* (to separate). Cf., however, *trennen* with *abtrennen*.

7. **Ab** with verbal nouns has the same force as with the verb from which the noun is derived. **Ab**

with original nouns expresses *separation, departure, or removal*, from the noun, and hence in general diminishes the force of the noun: e. g., *Abgrund* (precipice, i. e., ground removed from the customary level, "off-"ground); *Abgott* (idol,—departure from the true God); *Abgunst* (ill-will,—removed from favor). *Ungunst* (v. *gun*) is the exact opposite of *Gunst*.

8. In denoting separation from the surface of a body, *ab* is opposed in meaning to *an* (q. v.) and *auf* (q. v.), which denote contact with the surface of a body: e. g., *den Hut ansetzen* (to put on the hat); *den Hut abnehmen* (to take off the hat); *anziehen, abziehen* (to pull on, to pull off); *den Tisch abdecken* (to clear the table); *den Tisch aufdecken* (to set the table).

9. As separation implies *removal, diminution*, *ab* is opposed to *zu* (q. v.): e. g., *abgießen, zugießen* (to pour off, to pour on); *abnehmen, zunehmen* (to decrease, to increase).

10. *Auß* has reference to the outside of an object; but *aus* (q. v.) has reference to the inside of an object: e. g., *ein Blatt am Zweige wird abgerissen*, but *ein Blatt im Buche wird ausgerissen*; a table is wiped off (*abgewischt*) on the surface; a glass is rinsed out (*ausgewischt*) in the inside; flat surfaces are washed off (*abgewaschen*); hollow surfaces are washed