

**HEATH'S MODERN  
LANGUAGE SERIES.  
GERMAN LESSONS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649593132

Heath's Modern Language Series. German Lessons by Charles Harris

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# GERMAN LESSONS

BY

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D. C. HEATH & CO., PUBLISHERS  
BOSTON NEW YORK CHICAGO

## PREFACE.

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THIS book is intended to give such knowledge of forms as will adequately prepare the student to read ordinary German. It is expected to lead up to the advanced grammar on the one hand and to the study of prose composition on the other. As the number of German grammars now before the public is great, the author feels constrained to explain why this one has been prepared.

In teaching German, as well as other languages, it is desirable to bring the beginner face to face with the language as soon as possible. Here brief lesson-books, which deal only with essentials, have certain evident advantages. One of the greatest of these is the freedom such books have in the arrangement of the facts to be learned, so that what is most important for the beginner may be placed first.

Much time may be saved by the use of a lesson-book. Not only does the beginner come sooner to the language itself, but the comparative brevity of the book gives him a sense of mastery of the facts needed in elementary work, which does not come so readily from larger grammars. This sense of mastery is not to be despised, as it is a real impetus and aid in future study. The student should begin to read German in one of the various excellent Readers or in some easy text long before he has gone through the lessons in even so brief a book as this. Reading helps to lay firm hold of the grammar and is a pleasure in itself. It is possible to read simple German readily without an extensive knowledge of formal

grammar, for the analogy to English constructions makes much of German syntax intelligible without explanation.

As soon as the beginner is able to write connected German sentences, however simple, it is time for him to stop writing detached sentences and to take up formal prose composition. This has been an additional reason for making this book brief.

The book lays no claim to completeness. The author has tried to make it complete enough to be an introduction to German and to serve all the purposes of students who have only a year for the study of the language. It is the author's belief that advanced grammar can be studied more profitably after the completion of a lesson-book; so that to the student who does continue his German, as well as to the one who does not, the lesson-book is a positive gain.

Only the test of actual use can decide whether this book carries out the principles which have guided in its preparation. Whether it is to succeed or fail, the author can at least present it to the public as an honest attempt to solve the problem of the teaching of elementary German. Other grammars have been freely consulted and used. Conversational exercises have been omitted, as they can be better prepared by the teacher. The author offers no apology for the prosaic character of the sentences in the exercises, as it is due to the attempt to keep the vocabulary from swelling beyond its proper limits. Matter is given in the appendix which may be of service to those who do not subsequently take up a larger grammar.

CHARLES HARRIS.

OBERLIN COLLEGE, June, 1892.

This edition has been revised and conforms to the latest official orthography.

CHARLES HARRIS.

January, 1906.

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## GERMAN LESSONS.

### ALPHABET.

1. German is usually printed in an alphabet consisting of twenty-six letters and having the same origin as our own, but the shape of the letters more nearly resembles what we call "old English." These letters with their Roman equivalents and their names are as follows: —

<i>German letters.</i>	<i>Roman letters.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>German letters.</i>	<i>Roman letters.</i>	<i>Names.</i>
A, a	A, a	ah	N, n	N, n	enn
B, b	B, b	bay	O, o	O, o	oh
C, c	C, c	tsay	P, p	P, p	pay
D, d	D, d	day	Q, q	Q, q	koo
E, e	E, e	ay	R, r	R, r	err
F, f	F, f	eff	S, s	S, s	ess
G, g	G, g	gay	T, t	T, t	tay
H, h	H, h	hah	U, u	U, u	oo
I, i	I, i	ee	V, v	V, v	fow
J, j	J, j	yot	W, w	W, w	vay
K, k	K, k	kah	X, x	X, x	ix
L, l	L, l	ell	Y, y	Y, y	ipsilon
M, m	M, m	emm	Z, z	Z, z	tset

2. Of the two forms for small *s* given above, the short *s* is used at the end of a word, whether alone or in compound, and in a few other places which may be left to the observation of the learner; the long *ſ* is used in all other situations. Thus: *baſ*, *beſtaſſ*; but *leſen*, *ſehen*. Certain of the letters are modified in form when combined with others. Thus: *ſſ*, *ck*; *ſſ*, *ck*; *ſſ*, *ss*; *ſſ*, *ts*.

3. Many German books, however, are now printed in Roman characters, such as are used in English. In writing, Germans generally employ a special alphabet differing in many respects from ours. A copy of this script alphabet is given in the Appendix. When German is printed or written in English characters, all the letters are represented by their regular English equivalents, except that for *ſſ* the special character *ſſ* (or *ſs*) is substituted.

4. Every noun or word used as a noun must begin with a capital letter; adjectives of nationality, such as *ſpaniſch*, *Spaniſh* do not begin with a capital. Other minor deviations from English practice may be readily learned from observation.

5. The new orthography, as officially prescribed for use in the schools of Germany, is employed in this book. The changes in this orthography are so slight that they cause no difficulty in reading books printed in the old orthography.

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## PRONUNCIATION.

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The following description is intended to be used only as a key, and is not an exhaustive treatment of the subject. Such a key can only be approximately correct, and no description can take the place of the teacher's oral instruction.