

**HERMANN UND DOROTHEA. WITH
GRAMMATICAL EXPLANATIONS,
CALCULATED TO BRING THE ENGLISH
READER TO A SOUND KNOWLEDGE
OF THE GERMAN LANGUAGE**

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Hermann und Dorothea. With Grammatical Explanations, Calculated to Bring the English Reader to a Sound Knowledge of the German Language by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe & H. Sachs

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**HERMANN UND DOROTHEA. WITH
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Hermann und Dorothea.

Von

G ö t t e.

With grammatical explanations, calculated to bring
the English reader to a sound knowledge of
the German language,

by

H. Sachs,

Author of "Sachs' German Conversational Grammar," of "Die
gesprochenen Laute der englischen Sprache etc.," and of
other works.

London.

J. W. KOLCKMANN.

1884.

1353. f. 1.

Preface.

Reading in a foreign language is useful to those students who have already gone through a preliminary course of the language in question: but there is only one right and reasonable way to do it, namely if the reader really makes the subject-matter his own, i.e. all the words and all the idiomatic terms which have occurred in a part which he has prepared for reading, so that he has them at his command, whenever he wants them on a future occasion to express his own thoughts. The masters should make a most careful examination respecting it, and should further try whether the pupils know all perfectly, for instance: the plurals of the nouns and the tenses of the irregular verbs occurring in the passage. The masters should, at the same time, give to the pupils explanations, rules of syntax, and whatever is required to elucidate the sentence read.

Reading, if not done in such a way, means to understand very little, or to guess at, or misunderstand the greater part of the contents of classical works.

Now, in order to smooth the way towards reading in the manner I have mentioned above, I have undertaken these editions of German Classics. They contain useful and practical remarks — not to be found in any other edition of the kind — which explain grammatical difficulties, and will greatly contribute to the better understanding, in this country, of the works of German classical writers.

London, January, 1884.

H. Sachs.

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K a l l i o p e .¹⁾

Schicksal²⁾ und Anteil.³⁾

Hab' ich den Markt⁴⁾ und die Straßen doch nie so einsam gesehen!⁵⁾
Ist doch die Stadt wie gelehrt! wie ausgestorben!⁶⁾ Nicht fünfzig,
Dücht mir,⁷⁾ blieben zurück⁸⁾ von allen unsern Bewohnern.

☞ The *genders of Nouns*, and their *Plurals* — when the latter are irregular — as well as the *tenses of all the Irregular Verbs* — when these occur for the first time — will be given among the remarks.

Wherever the space in this small book does not admit of too long a grammatical explanation, this mark: "(S. G. p. . .)" will refer to the grammatical rule in question, to be found on the mentioned page in my work: "Sachs' German Conversational Grammar"; but, the rules referred to, might, of course, likewise be found in any other complete and *modern* German grammar.

R e m a r k s .

1) Kalliope, Calliope, the muse that presides over eloquence and heroic poetry; she was the mother of Orpheus and chief of the nine muses.

2) Schicksal, das, fate, (plural: die Schicksale).

P l u r a l o f N o u n s .

To enable the Reader himself to form, the plurals of those nouns which have a regular plural, i. e. one to be formed according to easy rules, an explanation will be necessary, with regard to

"the *Declension of German Nouns* in general."

German declension is really not so difficult as ordinarily supposed, if taught in a practical manner; but *German* men of *theory* have made it difficult to Englishmen, by inventing 3, 4, 5, 6, or, even, 7 declensions of nouns, which, of course, have required

☞ The notes from 3) to 8) will be found on page 7, those from 9) to 14) on page 8.

Was die Neugier nicht thut!⁹⁾ So rennt¹⁰⁾ und lauft!¹¹⁾ nun ein jeder,
Um den traurigen Zug der armen Vertriebenen¹²⁾ zu sehen.

so many exceptions that it became quite impossible to the English learner, to avoid confounding the different declensions and the exceptions. In addition to it, such divisions have proved to be so defective that, to the great embarrassment of the student, many nouns do not follow any of the declensions, and others would be declined wrongly, if declined according to the rules given. This is a statement that can readily be verified.

How easy, on the other hand, declension may be made, is to be seen from the following rules:

- A) Add „eſ“ or „ſ“ to a noun, and you have the *Genitive Singular of most*†) *masculine* and *all neuter* nouns; (monosyllables, as a rule, take „eſ“, the others „ſ“).
- B) In the *Dative Singular* of such nouns, the „ſ“ of the *Genitive* simply is dropped, so that those which had formed that case in „eſ“, generally retain the e.
- C) The *Accusative Singular* of the said nouns is like their *Nominative*; (so that those which take in the *Genitive* „ſ“ only, are alike in their *Nominative, Dative* and *Accusative*).
- D) *Feminine* nouns do not change in the cases of the *Singular*.

As to the *Plural*, all German nouns are alike in the *Nominative, Genitive*, and *Accusative*; in the *Dative* we must add „n“, unless the words terminate already in „n“ in the *Nominative Plural*.

To know, however, how to form the *Nominative Plural*, this is the only real difficulty in German declension.

Still, the principal rules for its formation (as laid down in E. G. p. 49) are easy, as will be seen hereafter, whilst nouns which do not follow such easy rules, can, in their *Nominative Plural*, only be known by practice. For this purpose their plurals will be given among the remarks.

†) The only exception to the aforesaid rule are *masculine* nouns of more than one syllable with the termination *r* (e. g. der Keffe) and some nouns, which, in the course of time, have dropped their termination *e*, (e. g. der Mensch), as well as some nouns from foreign languages and a few names of nations, not ending in *r*. These nouns have — the *Nominative Singular* excepted — in all the other cases both *Singular* and *Plural*, the termination „en“, (a few „n“ only). If we like, we may say, all these nouns form a second declension, but it is simpler to consider them to be an exception to the above.

Bis zum Dammweg, welchen sie ziehn,¹³⁾ ist's immer ein Stündchen,
Und da lauft man hinab, im heißen Staube des Mittags.
Wächst'¹⁴⁾ ich mich doch nicht rühren vom Platz, um zu sehen das Gend

The principal rules for the formation of the Nominative Plural are:

- a) Most masculine nouns modify their root vowel, and take „en“; e. g. der Sohn, die Söhne.
- b) Most feminine nouns, } if monosyllabic, do the same; e. g. die Frucht, die Früchte;
} if of more than one syllable, they do not modify, and take „en“, (some „n“ only); e. g. die Person, die Personen; die Rose, die Rosen.
- c) Most neuter nouns modify their root vowel, and take „er“; e. g. das Buch, die Bücher.

So simple may German declension be made, if taught according to the author's system (to be found in Sachs' German Conversational Grammar); therefore, we do not want at all any division of declension!

3) Anteil, der, sympathy (pl. die Anteile; the radical syllable is: teil).

4) Markt, der, market, means here: the market place, the principal square of a small town.

5) Sehen, to see, irregular verb. (The first person of the Present tense, of the Imperfect and of the Perfect of irregular verbs will always be given; likewise the second and third persons of the Present and the first word of the Imperative, if they are irregularly formed; which is not always the case.) Ich sehe, du siehst, er sieht; ich sah; ich habe gesehen; sieh!

6) Aussterben, to die away, to become extinct, irr. verb with a separable prefix (which will always be marked by spaced letters) conjugated like sterben, to die. Ich sterbe, du stirbst, er stirbt; ich starb; ich bin gestorben; stirb!

Eine Stadt ist ausgestorben means: "all the inhabitants of a town are dead"; but: die Stadt ist wie ausgestorben is only a comparison, the meaning of which is: "the town is as quiet (silent) as the grave."

7) Mir (or mich) dünkt, (obsolete for: mich or mir dünkt), me-thinks, I think, it seems to me.

8) Zurückbleiben, to remain, to be left, to remain at home, irr. v., conj. like bleiben, to stay, to remain. Ich bleibe; ich blieb; ich bin geblieben.

Guter fliehender¹⁵) Menschen,¹⁶) die nun mit geretteter Habe,¹⁷)
Leiber, das überheinische¹⁸) Land, das schöne, verlassend,¹⁹)
Zu uns herüber kommen,²⁰) und durch den glücklichen Winkel

9) Thun, to do, irr. v. Ich thue, du thust, er thut; wir thun, ihr thut, sie thun; ich that; ich habe gethan; thu'! (thue!)

10) Rennen, to run, irr. v. Ich renne; ich rannte; ich bin gerannt.

11) Laufen, to run, irr. v. Ich laufe, du laufst (läuffst), er läuft (läuft); ich lief; ich bin gelaufen.

12) Vertriebene, ber or bie, an exile, past participle, used substantively, which comes from: vertreiben, to drive out, to force away, to expel or exile; conj. like treiben, to drive, to urge forward, to press on, to push. Ich treibe; ich trieb; ich habe getrieben. The intransitive: treiben, to drive, to float or to be driven along, to drift, forms the past tenses by "to be"; therefore: ich bin getrieben.

13) Ziehen, transitive: to draw, to pull, to drag; intransitive: to move (in numbers, in a body), to draw (towards etc.), irr. v. Ich ziehe; ich zog; transitive: ich habe gezogen, intransitive: ich bin gezogen.

14) Mögen (may) to be able; one of the 7 verbs of mood. Ich mag, du magst, er mag, wir mögen, ihr mögt, sie mögen; ich mochte; ich habe gemocht (or after another infinitive mögen; see S. G. p. 138, last remark). Möchte, the Subjunctive of the Imperfect stands frequently for the Conditional, and, when followed by an Infinitive, it means: to like to do anything; thus here: ich möchte mich nicht rühren vom Platz, I should not like to move from the spot (from my seat). No Imperative.

15) Fliehend is the Present Participle of fliehen, to flee, irr. v. Ich fliehe; ich floh; ich bin geflohen; flieh! (fliehe!)

16) Mensch, ber, man, (mankind); belongs to those nouns which formerly terminated in e, but, in the course of time, have dropped this termination. They, however, are still declined like other masculine nouns of more than one syllable, ending in e, i. e. they have in all the other cases both Singular and Plural the termination en; (see S. G. p. 87).

17) Habe, bie, property, chattels.

18) Überheinisch, transrhane, on the other side of the Rhine.

19) Verlassen, to leave a person or a place, irr. v.; conj. like lassen, to let, to leave, to cause, or have something done — one of the 7 verbs of mood. — Ich lasse, du läßt, er läßt, wir lassen, ihr laßt, sie lassen; ich ließ; ich habe gelassen; laß! (lasse!)

20) Kommen, to come, irr. v. Ich komme; ich kam; ich bin gekommen; komm'! (komme!)

(All verbs that express going or coming or moving of persons form their past tenses in German by sein, to be.)