

**ELEMENTARY GERMAN PROSE
COMPOSITION: SELECTED
PASSAGES FROM MODERN
ENGLISH AUTHORS FOR
TRANSLATION INTO GERMAN**

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Elementary German Prose Composition: Selected Passages from Modern English Authors for Translation into German by E. S. Buchheim

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E. S. BUCHHEIM

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ELEMENTARY
GERMAN PROSE COMPOSITION

*Selected Passages from Modern English Authors
for Translation into German*

WITH

*NOTES, GRAMMATICAL APPENDIX, TABLES ILLUSTRATING
THE ORDER OF WORDS IN GERMAN, AND
A COMPLETE VOCABULARY*

BY

E. S. BUCHHEIM

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE	v
SECTION I.— <i>EXTRACTS</i>	I

Part I.

1. Halcyone	<i>Charles Kingsley</i>	1
2. A Peaceful Monk		2
3. A Cunning Dog		2
4. Why the Sea is Salt	<i>From the Edda</i>	3
5. A Difficult Question	<i>Sir R. Ball</i>	3
6. A Tragic Story		4
7. Political Principles		4
8. A Poet's Fame	<i>Memories of Seventy Years</i>	5
9. A Vanished King		5
10. Much Ado about Nothing		5
11. Spring Fashions	<i>A. Merton</i>	6
12. The Lady's Black Hands	<i>Mrs. R. M. King</i>	7

Part II.

13. The Power of Song	<i>A. J. Church</i>	8
14. The Fisherman and the Fox	<i>Sir W. Scott</i>	9
15. A Schoolboy's Joke	<i>Charles Darwin</i>	10
16. Bishop Hugh's Swan	<i>F. York Powell</i>	11
17. A Ludicrous Mistake		12
18. The Return to School	<i>A. Merton</i>	13
19. An Intelligent Observer	<i>Sir R. Ball</i>	14
20. A Dinner in the Eighteenth Century		15
21. In the Dark with a Snake	<i>Lt.-Col. Gordon Cumming</i>	15

From the ... series

		PAGE
22. An Unexpected Arrival	<i>M. Wilson</i>	16
23. A Troublesome Calculation	<i>Mrs. Ewing</i>	18
24. A Serious Drawback	<i>M. & E. Kirby</i>	19
25. A Model Family	<i>L. M. Alcott</i>	20
26. Cats and Clover	<i>Arabella B. Buckley.</i>	21

Part III.

27. The Fire of London	<i>Charles Dickens</i>	22
28. Christmas Wishes	<i>J. M. Barrie</i>	23
29. A Review at the Tower	<i>Memories of Seventy Years</i>	23
30. Linnæus the Botanist	<i>M. & E. Kirby</i>	25
31. An Uncomfortable Night	<i>W. F. Butler</i>	26
32. True Hospitality		27
33. The Taking of Roxburgh Castle	<i>Sir W. Scott</i>	28
34. A Cheap Hotel	<i>Frank R. Stockton</i>	29
35. A Young Hero	<i>Sir Randal H. Roberts</i>	32
36. A Northern Spring	<i>R. M. Ballantyne</i>	32
37. A Dangerous Foe	<i>Life of Frank Buckland</i>	33
38. Maggie and Tom	<i>George Eliot</i>	35
39. The Golden-crested Wren	<i>Richard Jeffries</i>	37
40. Presence of Mind	<i>Capt. Gronow</i>	38
SECTION II.—NOTES		41
SECTION III.—GRAMMATICAL APPENDIX		69
Tables for Illustrating the Order of Words		78
SECTION IV.—VOCABULARY		81
List of Abbreviations		108

PREFACE

THE present volume is intended as an Introduction to German Prose Composition, and it has been so arranged that students can use it as soon as they have mastered the essentials of German accidence. The importance of using a book of this kind at an early stage will be apparent to all experienced teachers of the language. The detached sentences employed in the exercises afford practice in the grammatical forms only, but not in translating or writing connected passages, and they are often deficient in interest, so that the pupils frequently weary of the language before they have been fairly introduced to it. The application of rules to isolated sentences offers, besides, but little attraction to students after they have reached a certain stage, whilst the translation of connected passages will be found not only more interesting but also of greater practical value.

There is much exaggeration in the complaint about the difficulty of German composition. There are certain fundamental rules, which should be learnt

as early and as thoroughly as possible, and those who have once acquired a systematic knowledge of the order of words in German, will find that they can always produce a fairly correct composition in that language, although they may not always use the right word or the right idiom. In order to enable students to attain this end I have collected short, easy and entertaining passages from modern English writers, which seemed to me specially suited to bring out the peculiar characteristics of German composition, and which, as far as I know, have not been used before for any similar purpose.

I have further provided the extracts with such editorial matter as will make it possible for students to use them as a graduated and systematic guide to German composition. The *Notes* contain, in addition to idiomatic translations of the more difficult passages and of unusual expressions, indirect aids for producing a correct rendering, chiefly in the form of paraphrases of the original text, which mode will greatly facilitate the work of translation¹. The *Notes* include, further, a number of syntactical rules accompanied by examples, but, in keeping with the elementary character of the book, such rules only have been given as are absolutely necessary in the early stages of German Prose Composition.

¹ In these paraphrases, indicated by the word 'turn,' the English is not arranged in the German order of words, as it is desirable that the student should exercise his own judgement regarding the arrangement of the respective sentences.

Frequent references have been inserted in the *Notes* to Part I, both to the Grammatical Appendix itself and to the 'Tables of Construction'; whilst in the subsequent parts the references are confined to the Appendix, which is in itself a short theoretical guide to German composition and to some of the most essential rules of syntax. These rules, and more especially those relating to the order of words, should be carefully committed to memory by the student, who should also study attentively the 'Table illustrating the Order of Words in German.'

A full vocabulary has been added, because it was considered advisable to make the book complete in itself, and it is, besides, a matter of considerable difficulty for comparative beginners to select the right word in the dictionary. The vocabulary gives the German signification of every word occurring in the text¹; but of course it has been left to the student to find out for himself the various forms of declension and conjugation required, since the book is not to supersede the grammar, but to be used side by side with it. The vocabulary indicates, however, whether nouns and verbs are weak or strong, and it specifies whether the conjunctions occurring in the book are *co-ordinative* or *subordinative*, a feature which I believe to be a novelty in German Vocabularies

¹ It is, perhaps, hardly necessary to state that only those renderings are given in the vocabulary which are absolutely required for the translation of the text. The modern orthography has been adopted both in the vocabulary and in the notes.