

**AHN'S NEW PRACTICAL  
AND EASY  
METHOD OF LEARNING  
THE GERMAN LANGUAGE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649473304

Ahn's New Practical and Easy Method of Learning the German Language by J. C. Oehlschlager

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**J. C. OEHLSCHLAGER**

**AHN'S NEW PRACTICAL  
AND EASY  
METHOD OF LEARNING  
THE GERMAN LANGUAGE**



**A H N ' S**  
New Practical and Easy Method  
OF LEARNING  
**THE GERMAN LANGUAGE.**

WITH PRONUNCIATION

**J. C. Oehlschlager.**

Revised Edition.

FIRST COURSE:  
PRACTICAL PART.

---

NEW YORK.  
E. S T E I G E R.

1 8 6 9.

## PREFACE TO THE REVISED EDITION.

---

The general favor with which 'AHRN'S NEW PRACTICAL AND EASY METHOD OF LEARNING THE GERMAN LANGUAGE' has been received, and the large circulation which this book in a comparatively small number of years has reached through all parts of the United States and the British provinces, have induced the Publisher to prepare a new edition, carefully revised and considerably improved by the correction of many typographical and grammatical errors and the alteration of such expressions, phrases and rules as were deemed deficient in correctness, elegance or accuracy.

The work is, as heretofore, divided into two parts—a practical, and a theoretical or grammatical course. The first part contains a short treatise on the pronunciation, examples for practice in German writing, exercises for translation, with the necessary rules and references to the theoretical part, reading-lessons in prose and poetry, and an extensive vocabulary; the second part gives a synopsis of German grammar, in which everything pertaining to the inflection and use of the different parts of speech is treated briefly, but with sufficient completeness.

Professor Oehlschlager's system of pronunciation, adopted in the former edition, remains unchanged. In fact, nothing has been published which surpasses in accuracy and facility of application his system of representing the sounds of the German language by English combinations of letters. Students who cannot procure the assistance of a

teacher may follow this system, with perfect confidence that, by paying proper attention thereto, they will acquire a correct pronunciation of the language and be understood wherever German is spoken.

Specimens of German handwriting, the introduction of which formed an important and valuable feature of the Grammar, are also in this edition copiously given, in the exercises as well as in the reader.

In presenting the book in its new shape, the Publisher sincerely hopes that it will continue to prove an efficient aid to the students of the German language.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 1869.

# PRONUNCIATION KEY OF CALIFORNIA

## I. *The Alphabet.*

A, a, á	B, b, bey	R, r, err
C, c, tsey	D, d, dey	S, s, s, ess
E, e, ey	F, f, ef	T, t, tey
G, g, ghoy	H, h, há	U, u, oo
I, i, e	J, j, yot	V, v, fou
K, k, ká	L, l, el	W, w, vey
M, m, em	N, ñ, ñ, -o	X, x, icks
		Y, y, ip'-so-len
		Z, z, tset
Ñ, ñ, ñ, ai	Ń, ń, ń, -o	Ŭ, ŭ, ŭ, -o

## II. *Pronunciation of the Letters.*

### I. SIMPLE VOWELS.

A, a, when long, sounds like a in *father, car*; when short, like a in *cart* or in *castle*, as pronounced in England. This letter, when long, is represented by á or a' and, when short, by a.

báden,† bá-den;‡	Bab, bá'd;	Eshaf, shá'f;
Kágc, kát'-sai;	mat, má't;	an, án.

E, e, when long and close, like ey in *obey*; when long and open, like ai in *hair*; when short, like e in *hen, ell, error*. This letter, when long and close, is represented by ey, when long and open, by ai and, when short, by e or ai.

Ehrr, ley'-rai;	meh, meyr;	vrr, vairr;
Eubr, en'-dai;	bes, dess;	Etrle, stel'-lai.

\* The sounds of ß and ũ do not exist in the English language; the manner of forming them will be found p. 2.

† The sounds are long in the first lines of the examples, short in the second lines.

‡ See: Explanation of the signs used in the pronunciation p. 7.



3, *i*, when long, like *e* in *me* or *ee* in *meet*; when short, like *i* in *it*, *in*, *if*. This letter, when long, is represented by *e* or *ee*, when short, by *i*.

Ëgel, ee'-ghel;	iht, een;	ih'r, eer;
in, in;	winden, vin'-den;	irren, irr'-en.

4, *o*, when long, like *o* in *pope*, *so*, *no*; when short, it must not resemble the English *o* sound, and in pronouncing it, the aperture between the lips must be much smaller than in pronouncing the English word *oil*. The long sound is indicated by *o* or *o'*, the short sound by *o*.

lo, zo;	Böben, bo'-den;	loß, lo't;
ob, op;	Donner, don'-ner;	toll, tol.

5, *u*, when long, like *oo* in *fool*; when short, like *oo* in *foot* or *u* in *put*, *pupit*, never like *u* in *tub*. The long sound is indicated by *oo* or *oo'*, the short sound by *ö*.

Uter, oo'-ter;	Engenb, too'-ghent;	Uhr, oo'-rr;
und, öönt;	Ume, öö'-mai;	hurtig, höörr-tiçh.

6, *ä*, when long, like *ai* in *pair*, when short, like the German *e* or like *e* in *hen*, *el*, *error*. The long sound of this letter is indicated by *ai*, and the short by *e*.

Ähr, ai'-rai;	Ährer, shai'-fer;	färben, shai'-len;
Ährern, ei'-tern;	Käiber, kai'-ber;	färben, ferr'-ben.

7, *ö*. The sound of this letter is not to be found in the English language; it resembles somewhat the *u* in *fur*. To form it, the pupil should first pronounce a very long *o*, (this will indicate the position of the organs) and then, without altering this position, try to pronounce the German *e* (*ey* in *obey*). This will produce the long sound. To produce the short sound, place the organs in the same position and try to pronounce *ep*, *et*, *ef*, *eck*, *el*, *em*, *en*, *err*, *ess*. The long sound of this letter is indicated by *ö* or *ö'*, the short by *ö*.

Öel, ö'l;	Öbtle, hö'-lai;	Öshär, gai'-hö'-rr;
Öhler, höl'-lai;	gemöune, gai'-vün'-nai;	Mörder, mörr'-der.

8, *ü*, has no corresponding sound in English. Sound a very long *oo*, as in the word *ooze*, and without changing this position, try to pronounce the long *e* in *meet*, and you will produce the long sound of this letter, which is the same as the French *u*. To obtain the short sound, pronounce the syllables *ip*, *ü*, *y*, *ick*, *il*, *im*, *in*, *irr*, *iss*, preserving all the time the above position. The long sound is indicated by *ü* or *ü'*, the short by *ü*.

Üben, ü'-ben;	Üte, gü'-tai;	Ühr, tü'-rr;
Üßler, küs'-sai;	Rümmel, küm'-mel;	Ürtel, bürr'-stai.

9, *h*, does not differ from the German *h*, which is now generally used in its place.

#### II. DIPHTHONGS.

10, *ou*, is pronounced like *ou* in *house* or *ow* in *how*; we indicate its sound by *ou*.

ouf, ouf;	oune, hous;	Sauer, bou'-er.
-----------	-------------	-----------------

**Au, äu and eu**, like *oi* in *oil*; in some parts of Germany a slight difference is made in these sounds, *äu* being pronounced a little broader than *eu*.

Eufe, oi'-lai; Häufer, hoi'-zer; Steuer, sto'-er.

**Ai, ai**, like a very long *i*, or like *a* in *father* joined to *ee* in *meat*.

Kaiser, ki'-zer; Aiden, i'-chen; Seite, si'-tai.

**Ei, ei**, like *i* in *like*, not quite so long as the foregoing.

Eiße, i'-lai; Seite, si'-tai; Seit, si.

### III. PROLONGED VOWELS.

There are three ways by which in German a vowel is made long.

1. By doubling the vowel. This only occurs with *a*, *e* and *o*, and the pronunciation does not differ from *a*, *e* and *o*, when long.

Kaa, A'; Eeit, sey'-lai; Boot, bo't.

2. By placing *h* after the vowel. In this position the letter *h* has no sound.

kaht, ká'h; Reht, mail; ihn, een;  
foht, hone; Uht, oo'rr.

When the vowel is preceded or followed by *t*, the *h* is frequently connected with that letter.

Draht, drá't; Thát, tá't; Rath, rá't.

3. By placing *r* after *i*.

bienn, dee'-nen; liehen, lee'-ben; Sieh, zeep.

### IV. CONSONANTS.

The letters *f*, *h*, *k*, *l*, *r*, *s*, *t*, *m*, *n*, *u*, *v*, *p* and *x*, *z*, are pronounced the same as in English.

**B, b**, at the beginning of a syllable is pronounced the same as in English, at the end like *p*.

Beiß, blee; Lob, lope; bleiß, blipe.

**C, c**, before *a*, *e*, *i* and *ä* like German *ç* or *ts*. It only occurs in foreign words, many of which are also spelled with *ç*.

Ciferat, tae-ster'-nai; Circus, tsirr'-kóosa.

Before any other letter and at the end of a syllable, it sounds like *t*, which, in most cases, may be used in its place.

Cabaic, ká-bá'-lai; Civier, kíá-veer'; Tact, táckt.

**D, d**, at the beginning of a syllable like *d* in English, at the end like *t*.

dein, dine; Rad, rá't; Ruder, roo'-der.

**G, g**, at the beginning of a syllable or after *n* like *g* in *gale*, *get*, *give*, *god*, *gull*, *growl*, *ring*.

Garten, gárr'-ten; Geld, ghelt; gib, gheep;  
Krieg, kreedh; menig, vey'-nísh; regnen, raính'-nen;  
Gott, got; gut, goo't; Graben, grá'-ben;  
Ding, ding; sang, sáng; Gattung, gat'-tong.

After a vowel it has the sound of the German *g*, which see under compound consonants. The preceding vowel is generally long.

lag, lá'g;	lagte, zá'd'-'tai;	Setrug, hai-troo'g';
Krieg, kreedg;	wonig, vey'-uidg;	regnen, reyá'-nen.

*h*, like *h* in *house*, when at the beginning of a syllable; after a vowel, after a *t* or at the end of a syllable, it has no sound, but only lengthens the vowel. Between two vowels, the aspiration is very slight.

huten, hó'-len;	Hammer, há'm'-mer;
sehen, sey'-(h)en;	sehen, zá'-(h)en.

*j*, like *y* in *yes*, *ye*, *you*.

ja, yá;	jeder, yey'-der;	Subst, yoo'-dal.
---------	------------------	------------------

*q*, is only used before *u*, and sounds as in the English words *quail*, *quaff*, *quill*.

Quarz, quárts;	Quelle, quel'-lai;	quert, quair.
----------------	--------------------	---------------

*r*, almost like *rr* in English, should be pronounced distinctly, without being made guttural. In English the sounds of the vowels before this letter, when single, change; in fact, all the vowels except *a*, have the sound of *u* in *fur*; thus *her* sounds as if written *hur*, *fir* as if written *fur*, *world* as if written *wurld*, and *myrrh* as if written *mur*. In German these vowels sound the same as they would before *i*; that is as *e* in *error*, *i* in *irritate*, *o* in *horror*.

ritten, ri'-ten;	Herz, herrts;	Firtum, irr'-toom;
ornen, orrd'-nen;	Irne, örr'-nai;	arm, árn.

*s*, at the beginning of a syllable like *s*, *ß*, at the end like *ss*.

Seil, silé;	sehen, sou'-sen;	See, dáa.
-------------	------------------	-----------

*v*, has the same sound as *f* in all German words; in foreign words it is mostly pronounced like *v*.

viel, feel;	Berth, fer-keyrr';	voll, foll;
Bisfit, ve-se'-tai;	Sifir, ve-soer';	Saß, vá'-mal.

*w*, like English *v*; the teeth should, however, not be pressed quite so hard on the lower lip.

Wein, vine;	worben, varr'-den;	wohl, vo'l.
-------------	--------------------	-------------

*z*, like *ts*.

Zeit, tselt;	Zauber, tsou'-ber;	Schertz, sherrts.
--------------	--------------------	-------------------

#### V. COMPOUND AND DOUBLE CONSONANTS.

The compound consonants are named as the simple ones; *gh* is called *tsey há*, *ff* *tsey ká*, &c.

*gh*, *ff*, has no corresponding sound in the English language; it is the Scotch *ch* in the word *loch* (lake), and the Spanish *j* in the word *Mejico* (Mexico). The sound lies between *g* hard and *k*. In pronouncing