

**A GRAMMAR OF THE GERMAN
LANGUAGE, ON DR. BERKER'S SYSTEM;
WITH COPIOUS EXAMPLES, EXERCISES,
AND EXPLANATIONS FOR THE USE OF
SCHOOLS AND FOR SELF-TUITION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649040315

A Grammar of the German Language, on Dr. Berker's System; With Copious Examples, Exercises, and Explanations for the Use of Schools and for Self-Tuition by H. Apel

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

H. APEL

**A GRAMMAR OF THE GERMAN
LANGUAGE, ON DR. BERKER'S SYSTEM;
WITH COPIOUS EXAMPLES, EXERCISES,
AND EXPLANATIONS FOR THE USE OF
SCHOOLS AND FOR SELF-TUITION**

The author of this Grammar gives *private instructions in the German Language and Literature*, on moderate terms, both in the Metropolis and its vicinity. He also receives students at his own residence, privately as well as in classes. For further particulars address, free by post, *Mr. H. Apel*, 14, Henrietta Street, Covent Garden.

A GRAMMAR
OF THE
GERMAN LANGUAGE,
ON
Dr. Becker's System;
WITH COPIOUS
EXAMPLES, EXERCISES, AND EXPLANATIONS
FOR THE USE OF
SCHOOLS AND FOR SELF-TUITION.

BY
H. APEL.

THE THIRD EDITION,
GREATLY ENLARGED AND IMPROVED.

LONDON:
WILLIAMS AND NORGATE,
HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

1851.

[ENTERED AT STATIONERS' HALL.]

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, BY GÜNTHER FRÖBEL, IN
RUDOLSTADT, THÜRINGEN.

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

In the new edition of this German Grammar, which has almost become a new book, it has been the Author's aim, in order fully to act up to the intentions of Dr. Becker with regard to the composition of grammars for *foreign languages*, to discard everything that appertains to general or philosophical grammar, that is to say, to the principles common to all languages, such as the explanation of the nature of the verbs, substantives, cases, tenses, moods, &c. which the learner must be supposed to be already acquainted with through the grammatical instructions in his native tongue; still, wherever the knowledge of the student, in this respect, should prove deficient, the teacher of the foreign language can easily supply such wants incidentally and verbally.* The learner

* Those who wish to become acquainted with Dr. Becker's system as applied to the English language are referred to *J. H. James's "ELEMENTS OF GRAMMAR," according to Dr. Becker's system, displayed by the structure of the English tongue*; and to the *PRIMARY INSTRUCTION IN ENGLISH GRAMMAR, systematically developed according to modern views*, by the same author. (Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans, Paternoster Row. London, 1848.)

One of the most urgent wants in regard to the study of languages generally is felt to be the adoption of principles which can be uniformly applied to the grammars of all languages. And in this respect we have absolutely nothing even approaching in soundness to the

will thus not only see his progress in no manner impeded by much irrelevant matter, but have the peculiar forms of the German language, wherever they differ from those of the English, brought more prominently and clearly before him; in a word, he will at once perceive the *idiomatic differences* between the two languages, and therefore appropriate them to himself much more readily and permanently than

views upon which Dr. Becker's grammatical system is founded. Bearing upon this observation, we shall quote the following passages from the preface to Becker's "*Aufführliche Grammatik der Deutschen Sprache*," viz.: "The author's experience has convinced him of the great advantages to be derived from the application of these new principles to instruction in ancient and modern languages, and it is a very propitious sign that this view has been already extended by others to the grammars of both the Latin and Greek languages, and that particularly one grammar of the Greek language, to which the modern system was applied with perfect success, has met with merited approbation. It is easily seen that the advantages for the study of languages will be incalculable, not only with respect to the *cost of time and labour*, but also in reference to *intellectual development* (particularly to be aimed at by the study of language), if one grammar, different in matter, but in regard to form and conception one and the same with that of the mother-tongue, be used as the grammar of all other languages, and that the pupil be no longer compelled to learn one grammar after the other, or even several at once, which in form and conception are totally different from, or, in part, even opposed to each other, and consequently cannot fail to confuse the mind."—The "Greek Grammar" above alluded to by Dr. Becker, is, "*Kühner's ausf. Grammatik der Griechischen Sprache*," adapted to the English student by the Rev. Dr. W. E. Jelf, (J. H. Parker, Oxford.)

could be expected if the usual method had been adhered to. The various rules have been given in the most simple and precise terms, divesting them of all matter having no direct bearing upon the rules in question, without, however, impairing their *completeness* in any one point. And in this last very essential requisite, the writer may be permitted to mention that the system of Dr. Becker, at all events as far as the German language is concerned, stands preëminent. In proof of the solidity of its principles, may be cited their adoption by the most distinguished philologists, but especially their sanction by that great authority, the celebrated *W. v. Humboldt*, and consequently their general introduction into schools and colleges throughout Germany. In other countries, also, these modern principles are, gradually, it is true, but surely supplanting those numberless ephemeral methods of teaching languages, devoid of all science, which, for so long a time, have contributed to perpetuate an all but hopeless superficiality. The *theoretical part* of the new edition of this grammar has been once more thoroughly sifted after a careful perusal of all the latest editions of Dr. Becker's works, as well as those of other eminent German linguists. Many important doctrines, for instance, the *declension of substantives*, and the *order of words* in the sentence (i. e. *construction*) which hitherto have baffled all attempts at artificial arrangements,

have been reduced to their utmost natural simplicity, so that even a child could master them in a very few lessons. The difficulties of arranging the German declensions were even thought to be so insuperable, that in most grammars the student is referred to the dictionaries to discover the declension of substantives : hence we also find in nearly all German Dictionaries, the genit. sing. and the nom. plur. of the substantives given. But is the student, whenever he is puzzled about the declension of a substantive, always to have recourse to his dictionary first? The chief difficulties of German construction are overcome by one simple comprehensive rule (see p. 100 A of the grammar). The development of these two last-mentioned subjects of German grammar is, besides, altogether original, not having been attempted yet in any other German grammar published either here or on the continent. A very great improvement in the conjugation of the verbs has been effected by the substitution of a few regular classes of *strong verbs* for the long and tedious list of irregulars to be met with in all grammars adhering to the older views, and which always proved to be such a heavy load on the student's memory. As it is *essential* in the conjugation of the German verbs, that the learner should speedily become acquainted with the *imperfects* and *past participles*, the author has prefixed to each class an example with the imperfect and participle