

**EASY GERMAN
COMPOSITION: WITH
AN ABSTRACT OF
GERMAN GRAMMAR**

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Easy German Composition: With an Abstract of German Grammar by Marian P. Whitney & Lillian L. Stroebe

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MARIAN P. WHITNEY & LILIAN L. STROEBE

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INTRODUCTION

THIS book is intended to give a complete review of all important German forms and constructions, in connection with practice in writing simple prose and the systematic building up of a good vocabulary. It is suited for use in schools in the second or third year of the study of German, and in colleges in the second year.

The first part consists of exercises, each of which is a connected piece of prose based on a German model and illustrating a particular point of grammar. Each treats, in the form of simple narrative, conversation or letter, some phase of daily life, the whole series affording a carefully selected and logically developed vocabulary of practical, every-day German.

The book can be used equally well in teaching either by the old or the new method. Teachers who prefer to have no translation made from English into German can attain the same results by a careful study of the German model exercises with the help of the questions and by exercises in "Freie Reproduktion," suggestions for which may be found in Part II. These may, of course, be endlessly varied and added to by the teacher, who will find in Parts III and IV further valuable material for reproduction. On the other hand, those who desire more material for translation, will find in Part V longer connected prose passages based on the vocabulary of the exercises.

Teachers are strongly advised, before allowing the English exercise to be translated into German, to have

the German model carefully studied and discussed in class with the help of the questions, thus discouraging as far as possible the use of the vocabulary.

An Abstract of German Grammar has been appended, which gives in succinct form all of both accidence and syntax that it is really necessary for the pupil to know. It will prove valuable for reference and for review and it is hoped that its brevity and simplicity will commend it to both pupil and teacher. It is our belief — the result of long experience both in school and college — that too much study of difficult rules and exceptions and too little practice in the use of the common forms is the greatest fault of modern language teaching.

The material of this book, privately printed, has been tested by two years of class-room work in Vassar and Mount Holyoke colleges as well as in two good secondary schools, and has had the benefit of the criticism of excellent teachers, both German and American, to all of whom we here express our gratitude. Special thanks are due to the other members of the Department of German at Vassar College, also to Professor Davidson of Cornell University and Fräulein Krause of the Westover School, who have read the German carefully from the point of view of style and idiom.

The table of declensional endings used in the grammar is the work of a former colleague, Mr. E. Taylor, to whom we here express our gratitude. We are also under obligations to Professor R. M. Corwin of Yale University, whose classification of the modal auxiliaries we have found most useful in our own work and have therefore incorporated in this book.

M. P. W.

L. L. S.

August, 1912.

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