

**EXERCISES ON  
THE GERMAN  
GRAMMAR**

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Exercises on the German grammar by Franz Demmler

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**FRANZ DEMMLER**

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# EXERCISES

ON THE

## GERMAN GRAMMAR.

BY

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## PREFACE.

THE Author, in introducing this book to the public, refers to what he has stated in the preface to his Grammar respecting his method of teaching the German language. It is understood, that before entering into the Exercises, the student be thoroughly acquainted with the declensions of the articles and pronouns, as well as with those of the adjectives, and with the conjugations of the verbs, auxiliary and regular: besides which, he must know the general features of the declensions of the noun substantive, and of the conjugations of the irregular verbs according to their different classes, so as to be able to find out in the particular cases the correct forms of the two latter parts of speech, by means of the Tables contained in the Grammar. The best mode to acquire this knowledge, in the author's opinion, is to translate a limited number of fables from German into English, combined with constant parsing. Writing particular exercises on the elements ought to be avoided as a waste of time, which is much more usefully employed in repeating orally with the pupil the declensions, conjugations, and all these particulars which form the first part of the Grammar, as they may occasionally occur in the pieces translated from German into English. In this manner, you will be able to imprint more effectually on the memory of the student many more instances of the grammatical forms, than is possible by the slow means of writing sentences void of every meaning; and a larger arena will be gained for practising afterwards, orally and in writing, the rules of the order of words and of the Syntax.

After these remarks, it is hardly necessary to apologize against the reproaches of such as might, perhaps, deem these exercises to be too difficult for beginners. Indeed they require, as every task ought to do, the strict attention of the student: but this is amply repaid by accelerated progress, and by the advantage, that from the very first he feels enabled to speak something in the language he is endeavouring to learn; which is not the case if you press upon him the trouble of translating sentences, or rather fragments of sentences, of the most insignificant description. In the Exercises, care has been taken not to introduce any principal rule, without its having been hinted at in previous instances, and without reverting to it in some following paragraph: the fourth section will especially serve to repeat all the principal grammatical points treated of in the former three, besides being intended to afford an opportunity to form the style of the student; with regard to which object very easy pieces have been chosen, so as not to require much grammatical explanation besides that derived from the notes in the previous sections, whilst there is every means to show in them the requisites of a good German phraseology.

It remains for me gratefully to acknowledge the advantages, which, in the arrangement of the Grammar and the Exercises, I derived from the kind advice of my brother, Mr. Augustus Demmler, in Paris, whose experience in the tuition of English pupils has guided me in several parts of the two books, as well as in the method on which they are grounded.

F. D.

*Royal Military College, July, 1842.*



# EXERCISES ON THE GERMAN GRAMMAR.

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## SECTION I.

### PRELIMINARY EXERCISES.

#### I.

[WHERE is the verb to be put in the direct sentence, when the subject is first?—See Grammar, p. 63. 1. Mind the declension of the adjective.]

Every task *at first* seems difficult. We *always* know the faults of others better than our own. True friends *never* try to flatter. A wise man soon distinguishes real value from empty show. Worthy men usually are modest men. Great virtue with little reward, certainly is better than great reward with little virtue.

Task *Aufgabe, f.*; at first *zuerst*, to know *kennen*, true *wahr*, to try *suchen*, to distinguish *unterscheiden*, real *wirklich*, value *Worth, m.*; empty *leer*, show *Schein, m.*; worthy *würdig*, man *der Mann, pl.* (see the Table of Declensions, Neuter, III.) modest *bescheiden*, virtue *Tugend, f.*; little *klein*, reward *Lohn, m.*

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#### II.

[Where is the verb to be placed in the direct sentence, when any other part of speech but the subject is at the head of the sentence?—See Grammar, p. 63. 2.]

Yesterday *it rained*, to day the sun *is shining*,<sup>1</sup> and in the same manner fortune<sup>2</sup> *is now smiling*,<sup>1</sup> and then

she<sup>3</sup> *frowns*, and afterwards she<sup>3</sup> *smiles* again. In Turkey people *salute* only with the right hand, and it is even considered a very great affront to employ the left one<sup>4</sup> for that purpose. To a generous mind history<sup>2</sup> shows the noble progress of mankind<sup>2</sup>; to mean souls it<sup>5</sup> is only a mirror of their own baseness. In a certain book of a celebrated writer, we find the following passage: "During the reign of Queen<sup>2</sup> Elizabeth, many Protestant families came from the Netherlands to England; and soon after<sup>6</sup> they rewarded their new home with the introduction of arts and industry."

<sup>1</sup> Translate, *shines—smiles*. See Gram. p. 16, the remark at the bottom.

<sup>2</sup> Translate, *the fortune—of the mankind—the queen*. See Gram. pp. 80, 81.

<sup>3</sup> What is the antecedent to which *she* refers? Mind that the pronouns always agree in number and gender with their antecedents.

<sup>4</sup> *The left one*: translate, *the left*, as you say in English, *the wise, the rich*.

<sup>5</sup> What is the antecedent of *it*?

<sup>6</sup> *After nachher*. Mind the difference between *after* (as a preposition) *nach*, (as an adverb) *nachher*, and (as a conjunction) *nachdem*.

Yesterday *gestern*, to rain *regnen*, to day *heute*, to shine *schinen*, in the same manner *eben so*, then *dann*, to frown *zürnen*, afterwards *hernach*, Turkey *Türkei*, *f.*; people *die Leute*, only *nur*, even  *sogar*, very *sehr*, affront *Schimpf*, *m.*; it is considered *es gilt für* (what case is governed by the preposition *für*?), for that purpose *zu die(em) Endzweck*, to employ *gebrauchen* (infinitive with *zu*, see Gram. p. 112, *b.* Mind where the infinitive is to be placed), generous *edel*, history *Geschichte*, *f.*; to show *zeigen*, noble *herrlich*, mankind *Menschheit*, *f.*; mean *gemein*, mirror *Spiegel*, *m.*; baseness *Niedrigkeit*, *f.*; celebrated *berühmt*, writer *Schriftsteller*, *m.*; the passage *die Stelle*, protestant (as an adjective) *protestantisch*, home *Heimath*, *f.*; the introduction *Einführung*, *f.*; of arts (the genitive is here to be expressed by *von*. See Grammar p. 90. 2), the art *Kunst*, *f.*; industry *Kunstfleiß*, *m.*

## III.

[Where is the verb to be placed in the dependent and relative sentences? See Gram. p. 65, B.]

Ignorant people *usually* scorn those<sup>1</sup> things *which are* above their understanding. People respect such<sup>2</sup> men *as*<sup>3</sup> respect themselves. Throughout my life, I have learned *that* a brave man's best<sup>4</sup> friend *is* himself<sup>4</sup>. By<sup>5</sup> repeated losses we learn, that nothing is stable in this world. With a good conscience we may despise what fools say of us, and knaves attempt against us. We always find that those people are the<sup>6</sup> most enterprising, who speak the least of their plans.

<sup>1</sup> Those (as antecedent to a relative pronoun) *diejenigen, or die*.

<sup>2</sup> As, referring to *such* for its antecedent is to be rendered by the respective case of the relative pronoun, *welcher, or der*.

<sup>3</sup> Declension of the adjective, without any article preceding it.

<sup>4</sup> *Himself* (being here the nominative case) *er selbst*.

<sup>5</sup> *Durch* (when meaning *by*

*means of*). Mind that the German preposition *bei* is not correspondent with the English *by*.

<sup>6</sup> How is the superlative formed in German? See Grammar p. 47, and mind No. 3 of the same chapter, respecting the declensional ending. The participles, when used as adjectives, are declined according to the same rules.

Usually *größtlich*, above *über* (here with the dative case), understanding *Verständniß, u.*; to respect *achten*, repeated *wiederholt* (see Gram. p. 72, R. 3), the loss *der Verlust*, throughout my life, *say*, in my whole life; to attempt *wagen*, to enterprise *unternehmen*, stable *beständig*, the least *am wenigsten*.