

**A GERMAN
ACCIDENCE FOR THE
USE OF SCHOOLS**

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A German accident for the use of schools by J.W.J. Vecqueray

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USE OF SCHOOLS**

A
GERMAN ACCIDENCE

FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS

BY

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THE GERMAN ALPHABET.

HINTS FOR PRONUNCIATION.

Form:	Printing.	Writing.			
a	Ä	a		if long,* like a in <i>father</i> ; if short,* like a in <i>plant</i>	Water; Mann
b	B	b		at the beginning of a word or syllable, and when doubled, like the English b in all other cases like the English p	Bau, Bibe Kalt, Blut
c	C	c			before t, l, and y, like s; in other cases, like k ⁶⁰
d	D	d		at the beginning of a word or syllable, and when doubled, like the English d in all other cases, like the English t when long,* like a in <i>share</i> or like the French d (thus in the prefixes <i>de</i> and <i>de</i> , and the final <i>e</i>)	da, Treffel Band, und der, wer, herein erwig, jemals, geht, Kaffee
e	E	e			when short,* like e in <i>shell</i> (thus in the prefixes <i>es</i> , <i>er</i> , <i>et</i> , and in the final syllables of <i>es</i> , <i>er</i> , <i>et</i>)
f	F	f		like the English f	faul
g	G	g		when initial, hard like the English g in <i>garden</i> after the letter n, like g in <i>long</i> in other cases something like ξ (page 3), but less aspirated	Garten, geben ding, fangen Tag, wenig, Sieg; Weg, fertig
h	H	h		at the beginning of a word or syllable, it is aspirated as in English in all other cases the h is mute ⁶¹	Hand, Freiheit gehen, Schuppe trief, haben, stutz mit; haben
i	I	i		if long,* like i in <i>machine</i> ; if short,* like i in <i>city</i>	
j	J	j		like y in <i>yard</i> (except in French words, where it retains the original sound) †; Journal	
k	K	k		like the English k, except that it is distinctly sounded before the letter n	Kalt, Knie
l	L	l		like the English l	laub
m	M	m		like the English m	Mann
n	N	n		like the English n	nimm
o	O	o		if long,* like o in <i>home</i> ; if short,* like o in <i>top</i>	Ofen; Oett
p	P	p		like the English p, except that it is distinctly sounded before f and †	Palast, Pfeifer, Pfalm
q	Q	q		is always followed by u, and qu to be sounded like qu in <i>queen</i>	Quelle
r	R	r		more distinct and vibrating than the English r	Ritter
s	S	s		at the beginning of a syllable being preceded by a mute consonant, like s in <i>soul</i>	streif
				at the beginning of a word being followed by p, like s in <i>steads</i> †	spinnen is, reifen
				in all other cases, soft, like s in <i>sea</i>	saß, Besetzt
ß	ß	ß		like s in <i>sin</i>	
				hard, like ss in <i>kiss</i>	ßruß, reifen

* See Rule 3, page 3.

† See Note c, page 3.

(a) Modern Orthography often replaces this letter by *ß* or *z*, according to the sound to be given to it; *Schl. Kass. = Gintel, Gend.*

(b) Being then merely a sign that the foregoing vowel is long.

And if that vowel be preceded or followed by *t*, the *ß* is placed *after* the *t*;e.g. *stun, to do; stutß, need = tin, tin.*The sound of the English *th* is unknown in German.(c) Both *f* and *s* are forms of a soft *n*; *f* being used at the beginning or in the middle of a word or syllable, *s* at the end. *Ex. sch, weß; faust, Wischpel.*But inasmuch as German pronunciation always sharpens the sound of final consonants, the final *s* is somewhat harder than the initial or medial *f*.*f* is another single *s*, but hard, similar in sound to *ss*.*ß* like all other double consonants, should only be used after a short vowel, *ß* only after a long vowel or diphthong. *Ex. vergessen, to forget, Imperfect is weßß; fischen, to fish, Past Participle gefisßen.*However, at the end of a word, and also before an elided *t*, this distinction is generally disregarded, and *ß* is used in preference to *ff*. *Ex. reifen, ich muß (for mußß); ihr müßt (for müßtß).*

Form :	Printing	Writing		
t	ẗ	ʈ	{ like the English t (except in Latin words, where it is sounded like ts, if followed by i and another vowel)	Tauf; Ratton, Patent
u	U	u	if long, like u in rule; if short, like u in full	Mufe; burfte
v	W	v	like the English / (except in foreign words, where it retains the original sound)	Water; Wiſſe, Verſum
w	W	w	like the English v (never like the English w, a sound unknown in German)	Wein
x	X	x	like the English x	Sexte
y	Y	y	the same as the long i	Lyran
z	Z	z	strongly articulated, like ts in write	zarten

Compound Consonants.

ch	Ch	ʃ	{ in words derived from Greek, when followed by a, o, u, or a consonant, like f in French words it retains the original soft sound when followed by f or s, belonging to the same root ⁶⁶ , like f in German words when preceded by a, o, or u, like the Scotch ch in Loch in all other cases it has a softer sound	Chor, Chriſt Charlatan, Chausſee Fuß, wachſen Dach, Feß, Juden ſchtern, ich, durch wacht, Wild
ck	ck	ʃ	stands for ff	Schuh, waſchen
sch	Sch	ʃ	like sh in shoe, to wash	Stoß, auſſehen
st	St	ʃ	{ at the beginning of a word like what <i>st</i> would be in English ⁶⁷ in all other cases like st in English	Schwefel, Duſt
tz	tz	ʃ	stands for tt	troß, Blig

REMARKS.

- The three vowels, a, o, u, and the diphthong au, are subject to "modification" by coalescing with *e*. Thus :

ä, a is modified into ä ⁶⁸ ä, and reads like a in fate, if long; like e in mass, if short	Mäter, Männer
ö, o " " " ö ö, and reads like the French <i>oe</i> in pen, if long; like <i>e</i> in first, if short	Öfen, Gätter
ü, u " " " ü ü, and reads like the French <i>u</i> in sûr, if long; in us, if short	müde, büſte
äu, au " " " äu, au, and is sounded somewhat like <i>oy</i> in joy	Zuglein, Kräume
- This modification is a sign of derivation, or inflection :
 Of derivation : Ex. Richtig from Recht; Rauschen from Raube; Rausen from Raub; Engländer from England;
 richtig from Recht; richtig from recht; Böbling from bösen; Bergabgen from genug.
 Of inflection : (α) Substantives in the Plural Mutter, Väter; Tochter, Töchter⁶⁹
 (β) Adjectives in the Comparative Degree alt, älter; jung, jünger; groß, größer
 (γ) Verbs in the Imperfect Subjunctive ich hätte, ich hätte; ich war, ich wäre
- Vowels are long or short :
 Long, when followed by a mute *h*
 a, e, and o when doubled; i when followed by a mute *c*
 Short, when followed by two or more consonants belonging to the same root⁷⁰
 and generally in all unaccented syllables
 Sohn, ihn, ruhen
 Haar, Erde, Wood; sel⁷¹
 Hir, als, Kampf
 bei, denn—kame, Räume—Glück—Witz
 Verlangen, Bruder, Heben
- Diphthongs are always long. They are :
 ai, sounded like the English ay
 äu, au, sounded like *ou* in house
 ei, ei, sounded like *i* in fine
 eu, eu, sounded like *oy* in joy
 Weißte, Kaiser
 Auge, Traum
 Guter, mein, dein, sein
 Gule, tern
- All German Substantives, and all words used substantively, are written with capital initials.

(a) Occurs only in words of Greek origin. The use of *h* for *t* in German nouns (such as fern, bey, for fein, bet) must be considered as obsolete.

(b) Therefore not in weſen, Suße, etc., which read like weſ-jem, Suß-(e)s.

(c) To pronounce *h* and *h* like *sh* and *st* may appear strange and inharmonious; but since this pronunciation prevails through by far the greater part of Germany, it would seem right to adopt it.

(d) Instead of *h*, *h*, *h*, printers frequently use the forms *tt*, *cc*, *ll*.

(e) Compare the English man, men; mouse, mice; tooth, teeth; etc.

(f) In the article *die*, the *i* is short though followed by *e*.

(g) Therefore not in the first syllables of *Ursch*, *besen*, etc., nor in the last of *gäh*, etc., because they read *Ursch*, *besen*, *gäh*, etc.

GENDER OF SUBSTANTIVES.

There are three Genders; the Masculine, the Feminine, and the Neuter.
The Gender of Substantives in German is arbitrary, and can only be learned by habit and observation.
There are however a few Rules which will materially assist the learner.
These Rules are drawn from the meaning of Substantives, their formation and their declension.

A.—MEANING OF SUBSTANTIVES AS AFFECTING THEIR GENDER.

- I. The Masculine Gender is mostly ascribed
1. to beings of the Male Sex . . . e.g. der Bruder, brother; der König, king; der Schneider, tailor; der Stier, bull.
 2. to names of Stones and Minerals . . . e.g. der Stein, flint; der Granit; der Diamant; der Sand; der Ton, clay.
Except: die Kohle, coal; die Kreide, chalk; das Salz, salt.
 3. to names of Seasons and Months . . . e.g. der Herbst, autumn; der Winter, winter; der März, March; der Mai.
 4. to the Phenomena of the Air . . . e.g. der Wind, wind; der Blitz, lightning; der Schnee, snow; der Regen, rain.
Except der Donner, see III. 2.
- II. The Feminine Gender is mostly ascribed
1. to beings of the Female Sex . . . e.g. die Frau, woman; die Königin, queen; die Nonne, nurse; die Kuh, cow.
Except der Wid, woman; and der Mädchen, das Fräulein (see B. III. 2).
 2. to proper names of Rivers . . . e.g. die Donau, Danube; die Elbe; die Weisel.
Except der Rhein, der Main, der Mosel, and a few others.
- III. The Neuter Gender is mostly ascribed
1. to beings of undeveloped Sex . . . e.g. das Füllen, colt; das Ferkel, sucking-pig; das Kalb, calf.
e.g. das Pferd, horse; das Schwein, pig; das Huhn, head of oxide.
 2. to collective Nouns with prefix *Ge* . . . e.g. das Gewitter, storm (gathering weather); das Gestirn, constellation;
das Gebirge, mountain-chain; das Gerölde, building.
 3. to names of Materials and Raw Metals . . . e.g. das Leder, leather; das Zuch, cloth; das Gold, gold; das Eisen, iron (but der Stahl, steel).
e.g. das lustige Paris, merry Paris; das geschäftige London, busy London;
 4. to proper names of Towns and Countries }
das alte Europa, old Europe; das schöne Italien, beautiful Italy.
(These nouns only take the article when they are preceded by an adjective.)
Except die Schweiz, Switzerland; die Lürch.
 5. to Letters, Syllables, Words, and Phrases used Substantively }
e.g. das a b c; das Beten und das Hefen; das Sein und Nichtsein; das liebe Ich; das Gebetswort;
das Bergbetendigt; das Vaterunser, the Lord's Prayer.

B.—FORMATION OF SUBSTANTIVES AS AFFECTING THEIR GENDER.

- I. Substantives are Masculine
1. if they are the mere roots of Verbs without any external addition . . . e.g. der Spruch, proverb (sprechen); der Schlag, blow (schlagen);
der Schritt, step (schreiten); der Wurf, throw (werfen).
 2. if they are formed by one of the terminations *st, st, er, (ng, ling, ig)* . . . e.g. der Flügel, wing; der Strauß, drom; der Hammer; der Häring, herring;
der Weisling, hireling; der Essig, vinegar.
- II. Substantives are Feminine
1. if, to the Root from which they are derived, they add one of the Letters or Syllables *e, t, te, th, d, de* . . . e.g. die Sprache, language (sprechen); die Schlacht, battle (schlagen);
die Fahrt, track (fahren); die Gluth, glow (glühen);
die Jagd, chase (jagen); die Kunst, knowledge (kennen).
 2. if they are formed by one of the terminations *ei, heit, teil, in, ung, schaft* . . . e.g. die Enderei, daintiness; die Freiheit, liberty; die Seligsheit, blessedness;
die Fürstin, princess; die Meinung, opinion; die Freundschaft, friendship.
- III. Substantives are Neuter
1. if they are Roots of Verbs with the participial *Ge* . . . e.g. das Gebot, commandment; das Gemisch, mixture; das Gift, gift.
Except der Versuch, smell; der Gesang, song; der Versuch, custom; der Geschmack, taste.
 2. if they are formed by one of the terminations *gen, tein, sal, sel, thum, niß* . . . e.g. das Mädchen, girl; das Fräulein, young lady; das Schicksal, destiny; das Räthsel, riddle;
das Fürstenthum, principality; das Gleichniß, comparison.
Except der Irrthum, error; der Reichtum, wealth;
die Finsterniß, darkness; die Kenntniß, knowledge; die Wildniß, wilderness.

C.—INFLECTION OF SUBSTANTIVES AS INDICATING THEIR GENDER.

I. Substantives forming the Plural in *e* are mostly Masculine. (See Rules 1 and 5, page 8.)

II. Substantives forming the Plural in *en* are mostly Feminine. (See Rules 14 and 17, page 9.)

III. Substantives forming the Plural in *er* are mostly Neuter. (See Rules 9 and 12, page 8.)

D.—Several Substantives have two Genders with different meanings. The principal are:

der Band, volume	das Band, ribbon, bond	der Hebe, heathen	die Hebe, heath	der Schild, shield	das Schild, sign-board
der Bauer, peasant	das Bauer, bird-cage	der Hut, hat	die Hut, heed	der See, lake	die See, sea
der Chor, chorus	das Chor, choir	der Kunde, customer	die Kunde, knowledge	der Thor, fool	das Thor, gate
der Erbe, heir	das Erbe, inheritance	der Leiter, guide	die Leiter, ladder	der Verdienst, earnings	das Verdienst, merit

E.—Notice particularly the Gender of the words *der Mond*, moon; *die Sonne*, sun; *das Weib*, woman.

F.—Compound Substantives are of the same Gender as the last component.

Ex.—*der Hochmuth*, pride (see *Muth*, mind); *die Nachwelt*, posterity (see *Welt*, world); *das Wortbild*, type (see *Bild*, image); *die Hofkirche*, Court Church (like *die Kirche*, church); *der Kirchhof*, churchyard (like *der Hof*, court); *das Schulmädchen*, school-girl (like *das Mädchen*, girl); *die Mädchen Schule*, girls' school (like *die Schule*, school).

Except: *die Antwort*, answer (from *das Wort*); *der Abscheu*, abhorrence (from *die Scheu*, abhorrence); and several compounds of *der Muth*, mind; viz. *die Unmuth*, gracefulness; *die Demuth*, humility; *die Großmuth*, generosity; *die Langmuth*, longanimity; *die Ebnmuth*, meekness; *die Schwmuth*, melancholy; *die Wehmuth*, sadness.

THE ARTICLES.

1. THE DEFINITE ARTICLE: "the."

	SINGULAR.			PLURAL. M. F. & N.
	Mas.	Fem.	Neut.	
<i>N.</i>	der	die	das	die
<i>A.</i>	den	die	das	die
<i>G.</i>	des	der	des	der
<i>D.</i>	dem	der	dem	den

2. THE INDEFINITE ARTICLE: "a."

	Mas.	Fem.	Neut.
	<i>N.</i>	ein	eine
<i>A.</i>	einen	eine	ein
<i>G.</i>	eines	einer	eines
<i>D.</i>	einem	einer	einem

GENERAL RULE FOR THE ACCUSATIVE: *In all declinable words* the Nominative and Accusative are alike in the Feminine and Neuter Singular, and in the Plural (except only *die*, *we*, *Acc. use*—and *die*, *you*, *Acc. case*).

FEMINE APPELLATIVE.

Most Masculine Substantives of persons and animals can be made Feminine by adding the syllable *in*, and modifying the vowel. If the Masculine Substantive ends in *t*, that letter is dropped in the Feminine.

Ex.—*der Graf*, count; *die Gräfin*, countess—*der Löwe*, lion; *die Löwin*, lioness—*der Jude*, Jew; *die Jüdin*, Jewess.

DIMINUTIVES.

The Germans make much use of *Diminutives*, which, besides conveying the idea of smallness, serve them also to express endearment.

Diminutives are formed by adding to the Substantive one of the affixes *chen* or *lein*,* and modifying the vowel.

They are always of the Neuter Gender.

If the Substantive ends in *e* or *en*, these terminations are dropped in the diminutive.

Ex.—*das Huhn*, hen; *das Hühnchen*, chicken—*das Lamm*, lamb; *das Lämmlein*, lambkin—*die Katze*, cat; *das Kätzchen*, kitten—*der Knabe*, boy; *das Knäblein*—*die Mutter*, mother; *das Mütterlein*—*das Auge*, eye; *das Auglein*—*der Garten*, garden; *das Gärtchen* or *das Gärtlein*—*der Krappfen*, drop; *das Tröpfchen* or *Tröpflein*.

From *die Magd*, maid, has thus been formed (by sliding the *g*) the word *das Mägdchen*, girl.

From *die Frau*, woman (or wife), are derived the words *das Fräulein*, unmarried lady, and *das Fräulein*, little woman (or wifey).

* Generally speaking *chen* is preferred after a liquid, especially after *l*, whilst *lein* is preferred after a mute, especially after one of the gutturals *t*, & *g*.

DECLENSION OF SUBSTANTIVES.

In the following Table (—) indicates the Substantive in its Nominative Singular.

The Strong (or Old) Declension.				The Weak (or New).	
FIRST DECLENSION.		SECOND DECLENSION.		THIRD DECLENSION.	FOURTH DECLENSION.
Singular	N. — A. — G. — & (except Fem.) D. —	N. — A. — G. — eß or ß } (except Fem.) D. — e	N. — A. — G. — eß or ß D. — e	N. — A. — en or n) G. — en or n) (except Fem.) D. — en or n)	
Plural	N. — A. — ^{er} er Subst. are not modified. G. — D. — n	N. — e A. — e ^{er} er Subst. are not modified. G. — e D. — er	N. — er A. — er G. — er D. — er	N. — en or n A. — er or n G. — en or n D. — en or n	
<i>Decline thus:</i> 1. Nearly all Masc. and Neut. Subst. ending in t, r, or. 2. All Neuter Subst. beginning with &, and ending in t. 3. All Diminutives. 4. Die Mutter, die Tochter.		<i>Decline thus:</i> 1. Nearly all Masc. and Neut. Subst. beginning with a prefix and ending with the principal syllable. 2. All Subst. in aß, fß, tß, gß, hß. 3. Most Masc. Monosyllables.		<i>Decline thus:</i> 1. All Masc. Subst. denoting animated beings and ending in t. 2. All (but six) Fem. Polysyllables. 3. Most Fem. Monosyllables.	
Masculine	S. N. der Garten, garden A. den Garten G. des Gartens D. dem Garten Pl. N. die Gärten A. die Gärten G. der Gärten D. den Gärten	N. der Gesang, song A. den Gesang G. des Gesanges D. dem Gesange N. die Gefänge A. die Gefänge G. der Gefänge D. den Gefängen	N. der Irrthum, error A. den Irrthum G. des Irrthums D. dem Irrthum N. die Irrthümer A. die Irrthümer G. der Irrthümer D. den Irrthümern	N. der Affe, apo A. den Affen G. des Affen D. dem Affen N. die Affen A. die Affen G. der Affen D. den Affen	
Feminine	S. N. die Mutter, mother A. die Mutter G. der Mutter D. der Mutter Pl. N. die Mütter A. die Mütter G. der Mütter D. den Müttern	N. die Kuh, cow A. die Kuh G. der Kuh D. der Kuh N. die Kühe A. die Kühe G. der Kühe D. den Kühen	<i>No Feminines.</i>	N. die That, deed A. die That G. der That D. der That N. die Thaten A. die Thaten G. der Thaten D. den Thaten	
Neuter	S. N. das Wunder, wonder A. das Wunder G. des Wunders D. dem Wunder Pl. N. die Wunder A. die Wunder G. der Wunder D. den Wundern	N. das Jahr, year A. das Jahr G. des Jahres D. dem Jahre N. die Jahre A. die Jahre G. der Jahre D. den Jahren	N. das Bad, bath A. das Bad G. des Bades D. dem Bade N. die Bäder A. die Bäder G. der Bäder D. den Bädern	<i>No Neuter.</i>	

DECLENSION OF SUBSTANTIVES.

A.—NUMBER OF DECLENSIONS, AND THEIR DISTINCTION.

- 1 There are, properly speaking, only two Declensions: the Strong and the Weak (also called the Old and the New), but because the Strong Declension assumes three different Forms in the Plural, it is more convenient to recognise *four* Declensions.
- 2 The Strong Declension is distinguished from the Weak by the Accusative Singular.
In the Strong the Accusative is always the same as the Nominative, . . . *Ex.*—*der* Bruder, brother, Acc. *den* Bruder; *der* Gewinn, gain, Acc. *den* Gewinn; *der* Fürst, prince, Acc. *den* Fürsten; *der* Affe^m, monkey, Acc. *den* Affen.
- In the Weak it adds *en* (or simply *n*, if the Substantive itself ends in *t*), . . . *Ex.*—*der* Mann, man, Acc. *den* Mann; *der* Tisch, table, Acc. *den* Tisch.

B.—THE SINGULAR NUMBER.

3. In the Strong Declension, the Genitive Singular adds *s* to the Nominative, or simply *ß* if euphony permits the elision of *t*.
This elision is optional in many cases—*Ex.* *der* König, king, *des* Königs or *Königß*; *der* Thal, valley, *des* Thales or *Thalß*.
It is necessary in words of more than one syllable ending in a Liquid⁹¹—*Ex.* *der* Bruder, brother, *des* Bruders; *das* Mädchen, girl, *des* Mädchens.
It is impossible after a Sibilant—*Ex.* *das* Haus, house, *des* Hauses; *der* Fuß, foot, *des* Fußes; *der* Stroh, cross, *des* Strohs.
- The Dative adds *t* to the Nominative (but this *t*, being purely euphonic, is suppressed when the *e* of the Genitive is suppressed, and in fact *at* pleasure).
4. In the Weak Declension, the Genitive and Dative are always the same as the Accusative.
5. Feminine Substantives remain uninflected throughout the Singular.

C.—THE PLURAL NUMBER.

6. In the Strong Declension, some Substantives (1st Decl.) take no additional termination in the Nominative Plural; others (2d Decl.) add *e*; others (3d Decl.) add *n*.
Substantives of the Strong Declension are generally modified in the Plural; (except nearly all the Neuter⁹² of the first two Declensions, and a few Masculine⁹³ of the same).
The Nominative, Accusative, and Genitive Plural are always the same.
The Dative Plural always ends in *n*.
7. In the Weak Declension, the Plural is throughout inflected in *en* or *n*.
(In *n* only, if the Substantive ends in *t*, or *d*, or *x*. *Ex.*—*der* Knabe, boy, Pl. *die* Knaben; *die* Nadel, needle, Pl. *die* Nadeln; *die* Schwester, sister, Pl. *die* Schwestern.)
Substantives of the Weak Declension are never modified in the Plural.

D.—GENERAL RULE FOR ASSIGNING SUBSTANTIVES TO EITHER DECLENSION⁹⁴.

8. The Strong Declension comprehends
All Masculine Substantives expressive of things inanimate, besides others (chiefly those in *er*, *es*; and Monosyllables).
Only a few Feminine Substantives (and those mostly Monosyllables).
All Neuter Substantives without exception.
9. The Weak Declension comprehends
Such Masculine Substantives only as denote animated beings (but not all of them).
Most Feminine Substantives (the greater number of Monosyllables, and all Polysyllables with only half-a-dozen exceptions).

E.—The Germans use the Nominative for the Vocative.

(a) In German the final *t* is not mute, as in French and English (except only in *tu*, *si*, *te*, *vo*).

Therefore *der* Affe, *der* Knabe, *die* Nadel, etc., are disyllabic nouns, not monosyllables like the English *ape*, *knave*, *rose*, etc.

(b) For this reason the First Declension invariably forms the Genitive in *s* only, since all the Substantives of that Declension end in *t*, *d*, *x*, *er*, *es*, or *is*.

(c) The only Neuter Substantives of the first two Declensions that are modified in the Plural are
das Chor, choir *das* Kloster, convent *das* Schiff, raft *das* Stück, tube

(d) Of the few Masculine Substantives of the first two Declensions that are not modified, the following are the most important:—
der Adler, eagle *der* Besuch, visit *der* Schüler, painter *der* Tag, day
der Admiral, admiral *der* General, general *der* Monat, month *der* Dollar, dollar
der Americaner, American *der* Hund, dog *der* Pfad, path *der* Tropfen, drop
der Arm, arm *der* Kuchen, cake *der* Schuh, shoe *der* Brief, loss

(e) For more complete Rules see pages 8 and 9.