ESSENTIALS OF GERMAN GRAMMAR

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649247493

Essentials of German Grammar by J. E. Roessler

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

www.triestepublishing.com

J. E. ROESSLER

ESSENTIALS OF GERMAN GRAMMAR

Trieste

ESSENTIALS

OF

GERMAN GRAMMAR

BY

J. E. ROESSLER,

PROFESSOR OF GERMAN IN VALPARAISO COLLEGE.

M. E. BOGARTE, Publisher,

VALPARAISO, IND.

PREFACE.

This little volume is sent out in the hope that it may serve many a student who desires to learn German. It is my opinion that grammar study should accompany the reading exercises, so that the forms of all the words of the reading text may be thoroughly understood. While we have several excellent complete German grammars for schools and colleges, yet they necessarily contain a mass of statements and rules alternating with exercises, that make it extremely difficult for the student to get into his mind a good outline, a bird's-eye-view, of all the parts of speech.

In every branch of knowledge there are essentials which should be thoroughly learned, yes, *memorized*, by the student; and he is often puzzled to know just what those essentials are to which he should cling. This book contains a brief outline of the parts of speech, of the word-order, of case-constructions, and of the subjunctive mode; in fact, it gives those things which *every student of German should master sometime early in his course.*

It is not intended that this book should take the place of a complete German grammar, because many details had to be omitted, to keep it within the bounds of "essentials." As the parts of speech are given in regular order, an index was not considered necessary, and is not inserted.

While the outline is my own, I have received valuable hints from the excellent grammars of Whitney, Joynes and Thomas. My aim throughout has been to enable the student to *grasp* the subject more easily and thoroughly.

April 1902. J. E. R.

ESSENTIALS
OF
GERMAN GRAMMAR.

1. *a.* German Alphabet.

German.	English.	Name.	German.	English.	Name.
𝔄 𝔞	A a	ah	𝔑 𝔫	N n	enn
𝔅 𝔟	B b	bay	𝔒 𝔬	O o	oh
ℭ 𝔠	C c	tsay	𝔓 𝔭	P p	pay
𝔇 𝔡	D d	day	𝔔 𝔮	Q q	koo
𝔈 𝔢	E e	a	𝔎 𝔯	R r	err
𝔉 𝔣	F f	eff	𝔖 𝔰 ſ	S s	ess
𝔊 𝔤	G g	gay	𝔗 𝔱	T t	tay
ℌ 𝔥	H h	hah	𝔘 𝔲	U u	oo
ℑ 𝔦	I i	ee	𝔙 𝔳	V v	fow
𝔍 𝔧	J j	yot	𝔚 𝔴	W w	vay
𝔎 𝔨	K k	kah	𝔛 𝔵	X x	iks
𝔏 𝔩	L l	ell	𝔜 𝔶	Y y	ipsilon
𝔐 𝔪	M m	emm	ℨ 𝔷	Z z	tzet

b. Pronunciation.

VOWELS.

a *long* = a in far.
a *short* = a in what.
e *long* = a in mate.
e *short* = e in met.
i, ie *long* = ee in feet.
i *short* = i in fit.
o *long* = o in note.
o *short* = the *o* sounded quickly.
u *long* = oo in pool.
u *short* = u in pull.

MODIFIED VOWELS (Umlaute).

ä=a in care (sometimes "a" in name).

ö=e in her (also "long a" pronounced with mouth in position to say "oo."

ü="long e" with mouth in position to say "oo."

DIPHTHONGS.

ai, ei =i in mine.

au =ou in house.

äu, eu=oi in oil.

CONSONANTS.

These are pronounced as in English with the following variations:

b final=p.

c before e, i, ɳ, ä, ö=ts.

c before other vowels=k.

ch after a, o, u, au, is guttural.

ch after other vowels is palatal.

d final=t.

g final after a vowel = ch.

h is silent unless it begins a syllable.

j =English y.

s alone before a vowel=z.

v =f.

w =about v.

y =i.

z =ts.

2. **Cases.** There are four cases, and their equivalents in English grammar are given approximately in the following:

1. Nominative=English nominative.
2. Genitive =English possessive, or objective with "of".
3. Dative =English "indirect object," or objective with many prepositions.
4. Accusative =English "direct object", or objective with a few prepositions.

EXAMPLES:

NOM.—This man is my friend.
Dieser Mann ist mein Freund.

GEN.—Here is the man's hat.
Hier ist des Mannes Hut.
Here is the hat of the man.
Hier ist der Hut des Mannes.

DAT.—He gave the man money.
Er gab dem Manne Geld.
He is in the room with her sister.
Er ist in dem Zimmer bei seiner Schwester.

ACC.—I see the man.
Ich sehe den Mann.
He gave a dollar for the hat.
Er gab einen Thaler für den Hut.

3. **The Article.** There are three genders in German, and they do not always correspond to those in English. The definite and indefinite articles have separate forms for each of them.

a. THE DEFINITE ARTICLE.

		Singular.			*Plural.*
		Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	All genders.
NOM.	the	der	die	das	die
GEN.	of the	des	der	des	der
DAT.	to (for) the	dem	der	dem	den
ACC.	the	den	die	das	die

b. Like the definite article are declined dieser this, jener that, jeder each, every, welcher which, solcher such, mancher many a, as follows:

N.	this	dieser	diese	dieses	diese
G.	of this	dieses	dieser	dieses	dieser
D.	to (for) this	diesem	dieser	diesem	diesen
A.	this	diesen	diese	dieses	diese