

**MATERIALS FOR GERMAN  
CONVERSATION: WITH  
NOTES AND  
VOCABULARY**

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Materials for German Conversation: With Notes and Vocabulary by B. J. Vos

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MATERIALS  
FOR  
GERMAN CONVERSATION

*WITH NOTES AND VOCABULARY*

BY

B. J. VOS

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SECOND EDITION, REVISED



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## PREFACE.

THE collection of "Materials" here offered is the direct result of class-room experience and experiment.

In selecting stories that were to form the basis of conversation between teacher and pupil, it was felt that they should in the first place be interesting in themselves. They should also readily lend themselves to reproduction on the part of the pupil, and the vocabulary should be representative of the real — the pupil's own — world, rather than that of thought and feeling. These considerations have determined both the character of the selections and their individual treatment. Description and all detailed setting have therefore been eliminated in favor of action and incident. The editor has also aimed at introducing the pupil to only a limited German vocabulary. In accordance with this principle important words and phrases once used, have been repeated in subsequent selections, as well as in different portions of the same selection. Intensiveness, not extensiveness of knowledge has been the goal. Only by such steps can the pupil gain a sure footing and develop an accurate feeling for a foreign language.

The questions appended to each story do not lay claim to exhaustiveness. They have been so framed that the answers can be constructed by the student without aid, other than that derived from text, notes and vocabulary. While the later selections are covered somewhat less fully, the answers to the questions will as a rule completely re-

construct the original story. To what extent these questions are to be actually used in class must be left to the discretion and judgment of the teacher. They will at any rate subserve the purpose of enabling the student to prepare himself properly for the class-work, which aims at building up the story anew. Where a pupil is able to tell a story without being prompted by means of questions, he should do so, and the questions, not now asked in the regular rotation, can then serve the further purposes of accustoming the pupil's ear to the spoken language and of securing greater fluency and readiness in his use of German.

The notes aim to be brief. They comprise more particularly: 1. Observations on the use of particles. 2. Comments on peculiarities of word-use and grammatical construction. 3. Information, historical and geographical, required for the answers to questions on the text.

In view of the nature of the book as a collection of Materials for German Conversation, the vocabulary has been prepared with especial care, and will, it is thought, prove equal to all demands that can properly be made upon it. The method that has been followed in its compilation is stated in detail in the Explanations immediately preceding the word-list.

In respect to orthography the Prussian rules have been followed, Duden's *Orthographisches Wörterbuch* serving as authority on doubtful points.

The selections — invariably in an adapted form, to agree with the purpose of the collection — have been taken from German sources. Two exceptions should be noted. Professor Thomas has kindly permitted me to use a story found in his *Practical German Grammar* (page 155), and

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my acquaintance with the anecdote from Gerstäcker (No. XXXIII) is due to Buchheim's German Reader. Both of these have been slightly altered.

While the book has been prepared primarily for use in the first year of German study, the later and longer selections will, it is thought, be found suitable for second or third year students who may stand in need of such training.

It is my privilege to thank my friend Pastor Julius Hofmann of Baltimore for his generous aid in the preparation of the volume. He has read the larger part of both manuscript and proof, and his suggestions have been as numerous as they were valuable.

B. J. V.

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY,  
January, 1900.





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