

**A GERMAN
PREPARATORY COURSE,
WITH EXERCISES**

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A German preparatory course, with exercises by Edward Schinzel

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EDWARD SCHINZEL

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BY

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PREFACE

The experience I have had in teaching the German language, has shown me that the first instruction in German is greatly impeded by the want of proper books to be placed in the hands of young beginners. Excellent works are extant on the German language; but their method of subjecting the pupil to a lengthened course of grammatical studies before introducing him into the language itself, deters not only the young but all those who have neither talent nor perseverance enough to undergo a similar course of dry theoretical studies. The system which they are anxious to recommend as the key to the language, is so complicated, so replenished with artificial divisions and subdivisions, with exceptions to the divisions, exceptions to the subdivisions, and exceptions to the exceptions, that none but the most talented ever succeed in making themselves perfectly acquainted with it. And after having thus carefully studied, what the pupil has been told to be the elements of the language, he will find to his great annoyance, that he knows nothing but rules and paradigms which do not enable him to form one single practical sentence.

Other little books have been presented to the public with the avowed object of avoiding grammar altogether, of which we will only remark that the best

authorities have not hesitated to condemn them in the strongest terms.

The aim of the present book is not to dispense with grammar as something superfluous, but to reduce it to the wants of a beginner. A superficial glance will convince every teacher that it is written on a similar plan to that of the books alluded to, but that it differs entirely from them by a systematic arrangement not met with in any other book of the same description. In the present book the pupil is not misled by a series of incorrect and superficial observations, nor bewildered with an insufficient collection of contradictory examples, but is gradually led, to observe the principles on which the language is based: what is regular and normal, is not only taught but thoroughly practised, before irregularities are introduced.

For a similar reason the following innovation has been introduced. All the vocabularies are given in English characters which are likewise used in German books and learnt by every German child under the designation of Latin characters. All the German exercises however and those German words which occur for the second time (see L. VI) are printed in German letters and may be used as a practice for reading. We also recommend to beginners the preliminary use of English characters in their translations.

EDWARD SCHINZEL.

NB. As the present little book only forms part of a greater work, I beg leave to refer the reader to the preface of my German method, printed at the end of this book.

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THE GERMAN ALPHABET.

1. VOWELS.

English.	A. a.	E. e.	I. i.	O. o.	U. u.	
German.	Ä. a.	Ë. e.	Ï. i.	Ö. o.	Ü. u.	
German Hand-Writing.	<i>Ä. ä. E. e. I. i. O. o. U. u.</i>					

2. DIPHTHONGS.

English.	Ae.	ae.	Oe.	oe.	Ue.	ue.
German.	Äe (Ä).	ä.	Öe (Ö).	ö.	Üe (Ü).	ü.
German Hand-Writing.	<i>Äe. Ä. ä. Öe. Ö. ö. Üe. Ü. ü.</i>					
English.	Au.	au.	Ei.	ei.	Eu.	eu.
German.	Au.	au.	Ei.	ei.	Eu.	eu.
German Hand-Writing.	<i>Au. au. Ei. ei. Eu. eu.</i>					

3. THE CONSONANTS.

English.	B. b.	C. c.	D. d.	F. f.	
German.	B. b.	C. c.	D. d.	F. f.	
German Hand-Writing.	<i>B. b. C. c. D. d. F. f.</i>				