

**HEATH'S MODERN  
LANGUAGE SERIES:  
GERMAN LESSONS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649593125

Heath's Modern Language Series: German Lessons by Charles Harris

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**CHARLES HARRIS**

**HEATH'S MODERN  
LANGUAGE SERIES:  
GERMAN LESSONS**



Heath's Modern Language Series.

---

# GERMAN LESSONS.

BY

CHARLES HARRIS,

*Professor of the German Language and Literature, Oberlin College.  
Author of Selections for German Composition.*

---

BOSTON, U. S. A.:

D. C. HEATH & CO., PUBLISHERS,

1899.

F. dug T. 1718.99.440

HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY  
BY EXCHANGE  
BERLIN COLLEGE LIBRARY  
JAN. 30, 1926

COPYRIGHT, 1892,  
BY CHARLES HARRIS

---

Press of CARL H. HEINTZMANN, Congress Street, Boston, Mass., U. S. A.

## PREFACE.

---

THIS book is intended to give such knowledge of forms as will adequately prepare the student to read ordinary German. It is expected to lead up to the advanced grammar on the one hand and to the study of prose composition on the other. As the number of German grammars now before the public is great, the author feels constrained to explain why this one has been prepared.

In teaching German, as well as other languages, it is desirable to bring the beginner face to face with the language as soon as possible. Here brief lesson-books, which deal only with essentials, have certain evident advantages. One of the greatest of these is the freedom such books have in the arrangement of the facts to be learned, so that what is most important for the beginner may be placed first.

Much time may be saved by the use of a lesson-book. Not only does the beginner come sooner to the language itself, but the comparative brevity of the book gives him a sense of mastery of the facts needed in elementary work, which does not come so readily from larger grammars. This sense of mastery is not to be despised, as it is a real impetus and aid in future study. The student should begin to read German in one of the various excellent Readers or in some easy text long before he has gone through the lessons in even so brief a book as this. Reading helps to lay firm hold of the grammar and is a pleasure in itself. It is possible to read simple German readily without an extensive knowledge of formal

grammar, for the analogy to English constructions makes much of German syntax intelligible without explanation.

As soon as the beginner is able to write connected German sentences, however simple, it is time for him to stop writing detached sentences and to take up formal prose composition. This has been an additional reason for making this book brief.

The book lays no claim to completeness. The author has tried to make it complete enough to be an introduction to German and to serve all the purposes of students who have only a year for the study of the language. It is the author's belief that advanced grammar can be studied more profitably after the completion of a lesson-book; so that to the student who does continue his German, as well as to the one who does not, the lesson-book is a positive gain.

Only the test of actual use can decide whether this book carries out the principles which have guided in its preparation. Whether it is to succeed or fail, the author can at least present it to the public as an honest attempt to solve the problem of the teaching of elementary German. Other grammars have been freely consulted and used. Conversational exercises have been omitted, as they can be better prepared by the teacher. The author offers no apology for the prosaic character of the sentences in the exercises, as it is due to the attempt to keep the vocabulary from swelling beyond its proper limits. Matter is given in the appendix which may be of service to those who do not subsequently take up a larger grammar.

CHARLES HARRIS.

OBERLIN COLLEGE, June, 1892.



## CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
ALPHABET . . . . .	1
PRONUNCIATION . . . . .	2
 <b>LESSON</b>	
I. The Definite Article. Present Indicative of <i>sein</i> . . .	9
II. Words Declined Like <i>bet</i> . Present Indicative of <i>haben</i> .	12
III. The Indefinite Article and Words Declined Like It. Preterit of <i>sein</i> and <i>haben</i> . . . . .	14
IV. Weak Conjugation, Simple Tenses . . . . .	17
V. Strong Conjugation, Simple Tenses. Present and Pre- terit of <i>werden</i> . . . . .	20
VI. Compound Tenses of <i>haben</i> and of Verbs with <i>haben</i> . Declension of <i>ich</i> . . . . .	24
VII. Compound Tenses of <i>sein</i> . Declension of <i>du</i> . Word- order . . . . .	27
VIII. Compound Tenses of <i>werden</i> and Other Verbs with <i>sein</i> . Declension of <i>er</i> , <i>sie</i> , <i>es</i> . . . . .	31
IX. Strong Declension, Class I. Inverted Order . . . . .	35
X. Strong Declension, Class II. Prepositions with Dative or Accusative . . . . .	39
XI. Strong Declension, Class III. Interrogative Pronouns. Substitution of <i>wo</i> and <i>da</i> for Pronouns . . . . .	42
XII. Weak Declension. Compound Nouns. Demonstratives, .	46
XIII. Irregular Declension of Nouns. Foreign Nouns. Proper Names. Nouns of Weight and Measure . . . . .	50
XIV. Strong Declension of Adjectives. Cardinal Numerals .	54
XV. Weak Declension of Adjectives. Transposed Order .	57
XVI. Mixed Declension of Adjectives. Relative Pronouns. Ordinal Numerals. <i>Es</i> ( <i>ist</i> , <i>es</i> <i>gibt</i> ) . . . . .	61
XVII. Comparison of Adjectives. Fractionals. Counting Time, .	65
XVIII. Subjunctive of <i>haben</i> . Uses of the Subjunctive. The Conditional. Inverted Order after Subordinate Clauses, .	69

LESSON.	PAGE.
XIX. Subjunctive of Weak and Strong Verbs. Uses of the Subjunctive. Day of the Month . . . . .	74
XX. Subjunctive of <i>sein</i> and of Verbs with <i>sein</i> . Uses of the Subjunctive. Verbs in <i>teren, ein, erit</i> . Irregular Weak Verbs . . . . .	79
XXI. Inseparable Verbs. Some. <i>Biet, wenig, aff</i> . Indefinite Relative <i>was</i> . . . . .	84
XXII. Separable Verbs. Prefixes, Separable or Inseparable . . . . .	88
XXIII. Reflexive Verbs. <i>Jemand, niemand, jebermann</i> . . . . .	92
XXIV. Impersonal Verbs. Remarks about some Pronouns and Adjectives. Possessive Pronouns . . . . .	95
XXV. Passive Voice. Some Uses of the Perfect and Present . . . . .	99
XXVI. Modal Auxiliaries. Infinitive without <i>zu</i> . <i>Saffen</i> . . . . .	103
XXVII. Adverbs, Prepositions, Conjunctions . . . . .	107
XXVIII. Order of Words. Accusative and Genitive of Time. Adverbial Genitive . . . . .	111
VOCABULARIES . . . . .	117
APPENDIX . . . . .	140
Script Alphabet and Exercises . . . . .	140
Nouns . . . . .	144
Synopsis of Verbal Forms . . . . .	147
Strong Verbs . . . . .	166
Alphabetical List of Verbs . . . . .	173
Inseparable Prefixes . . . . .	181
Order of Words . . . . .	182
Derivation . . . . .	183
Composition . . . . .	184
Grimm's Law . . . . .	185
Syntax . . . . .	187
SUMMARY . . . . .	190

## GERMAN LESSONS.

### ALPHABET.

1. German is usually printed in an alphabet consisting of twenty-six letters and having the same origin as our own, but the shape of the letters more nearly resembles what we call "old English." These letters with their Roman equivalents and their names are as follows: —

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