

**A GERMAN PRIMER:
INTRODUCTORY TO
THE GERMAN SERIES**

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A German Primer: Introductory to the German Series by George F. Comfort

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INTRODUCTION TO THE GERMAN PRIMER.

THE "*German Primer*" is intended to meet the wants of very young pupils, who now, in many parts of the country, are beginning the study of the German language at too early an age to follow a formal method of instruction, such as is pursued in the *First Book in German*.

The plan of the *Primer* presupposes the presence of the living teacher with the pupil. No rules for pronunciation, grammatical forms, or construction are given; but all the words and sentences are presented in concrete form, without analysis or elucidation. As to the method of using the *Primer*, the author recommends that the lesson should be read aloud to the class by the teacher, who will then give such explanations as he may deem appropriate to the particular class of pupils under instruction. The reading of the lesson by the teacher may then be repeated, until the pupils shall catch the accurate pronunciation of the words and the cadence and intonation of the sentences. The members of the class may then, either singly or in concert, repeat the sentences after the teacher. It would be well also to have the pupils commit to memory and recite in the class the substance or the very words of the lessons.

As a further aid to the pupil in studying the lessons between the times of recitation, interlinear translations are given through the entire *Primer*. In nearly all cases the German order of the words is preserved in the English translation, thus keeping forcibly before the mind of the pupil the difference in the structure of the two languages. The teacher may add a translation into free and elegant English of the

substance of the sentences where there is a marked difference between the English and the German idiom; or, the pupils may be required to furnish such translation.

Aid is also given to the student in apprehending the subject and substance of the lessons by means of the illustrations which are inserted copiously throughout the greater portion of the *Primer*.

A number of short tales, anecdotes, and proverbs are also introduced, which are taken from the most popular primers and children's books that are published in Germany.

The German script is abundantly illustrated in the latter part of the *Primer*, by exercises which consist mostly of proper names of persons and places, and of sentences which are generally taken from the preceding lessons.

It is recommended to the teacher to give the class from time to time additional words, sentences, anecdotes, stories, or proverbs. These may be given orally, or they may be placed upon the blackboard and explained after the same manner as the lessons in this *Primer*. These lessons may, indeed, serve rather as models of exercises, which the skillful teacher will vary and extend as much as he may find advantageous to the particular class under instruction, before placing the class under the more formal method which is followed in the *First Book in German*.

It may be also recommended to even older classes of students, who are beginning the study of the German language, to spend a limited time at the outset in the exercises that are given in this *Primer*. It will be found that the student will ultimately make more rapid progress in this way than by beginning at the very first with a methodical study of the language.

LESSON I.

THE ALPHABET.

	A a A a	Der Af-fe Der Af-fo The Ape.
	B b B b	Die Bie-ne Die Bie-no The Bee.
	C c C c	Die Ce-der Die Ce-der The Cedar.
	D d D d	Der Dieb Der Dieb The Thief.
	E e E e	Der En-gel Der En-gel The Angel.
	F f F f	Die Flie-ge Die Flie-ge The Fly.

	G g G g	Das Glas Das Glas The Glass.
	H h H h	Der Hut Der Hut The Hat.
	I i I i	Der I-gel Der I-gel The Hedgehog.
	J j J j	Das Joch Das Joch The Yoke.
	K k K k	Die Ka-ze Die Ka-tze The Cat.
	L l L l	Der Lö-we Der Lö-we The Lion.
	M m M m	Der Mann Der Mann The Man.
	N n N n	Das Nest Das Nest The Nest.
	O o O o	Der Och-s Der Ochs. The Ox.

	P p P p	Das Pferd Das Pferd The Horse.
	Q q Q q	Die Quit-te Die Quit-te The Quince.
	R r R r	Die Ro-se Die Ro-se The Rose.
	S s S s	Die Son-ne Die Son-ne The Sun.
	T t T t	Die Tau-be Die Tau-be The Dove.
	U u U u	Der U-hu Der U-hu The Owl.
	V v V v	Der Vo-gel Der Vo-gel The Bird.
	W w W w	Der Wolf Der Wolf The Wolf.