

JANNACH'S

German for Reading Knowledge

Sixth Edition

Richard Alan Korb

Columbia University



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PREFACE

When I was a college senior in the early 1970s, *Jannach's German for Reading Knowledge* was the required textbook in a course called "Scientific German." That first edition of "Jannach" was filled with exercises and readings on acids, chemical compounds, and World War II. The step-by-step grammar outline provided our class with all the basics to translate German texts, which back then was nearly the sole purpose for learning the language.

Much has changed in the meantime. *Jannach's German for Reading Knowledge* has developed into a tool intended to meet the needs of students in the humanities, arts, and social sciences who have decided to concentrate on the skills of translating and reading German for academic purposes. This sixth edition continues to provide 1) clear grammar explanations focused on non-speaker perceptions and 2) approaches to negotiating meaning. The exercises and readings have been chosen with thought to both "bottom-up" and "top-down" reading approaches: From the bottom up, they build on and recycle grammar and vocabulary from chapter to chapter in ways that encourage attention to individual words and functions, as well as to the importance of using a dictionary effectively. From the top down, the variety of topics reflects multiple facets of contemporary German-language cultures promoting interpretive thinking, reflecting, guessing, and further reading by students from a wide range of academic fields.

Users who liked the fifth edition will be glad to find the style and even a good deal of the content of the sixth edition unchanged but much refreshed. Changes to the new edition include:

- An introduction to students and instructors on "how to use this book," plus added reading strategy tips on learning vocabulary and using a dictionary have been added to early chapters. Further suggestions can be found in a new version of Appendix C: "How to choose and use a dictionary."

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How to Use *German for Reading Knowledge*

This book provides guidance and practice in applying basic German grammar and vocabulary to reading and translating progressively more complex texts. The basic components are: grammar outlines, vocabulary lists, exercise sentences, chapter readings, and review readings after every five chapters. The companion website adds exercise keys, grammar review charts, and reading guides.

Here are suggestions for how best to utilize these features.

1. **Grammatik** (grammar outline): Use outlines for reference purposes. Compare explanations and examples to structures in the exercise sentences. Bring comments and questions on the grammar for class discussion. Refer to the companion website's grammar charts for review (www.cengage.com/german/korb).
2. **Grundwortschatz** (basic vocabulary): These common words recur throughout the book and are listed with basic meanings and forms. They are the basis for your personal active vocabulary list, and they appear again in the end vocabulary (pp. 301–324).
3. **Übungssätze** (exercise sentences): Daily practice translating and then reviewing these sentences builds vocabulary and skills in recognizing word function and context. After translating all the sentences, check your accuracy using the online exercise key (www.cengage.com/german/korb). Note both errors in your translation—to facilitate feedback and avoid future errors—and idiomatic expressions. The online key strives for idiomatic translations instead of word-for-word renderings. Bring questions and comments for class discussion.
4. **Kapitel Lesestücke** (chapter readings): These passages can be used to practice reading strategies and/or translating contextualized material. The online reading guides (www.cengage.com/german/korb) have three components: pre-reading activities activate background knowledge and help organize an approach to reading, skimming, and scanning activities help readers understand the gist and key elements of the text, intensive reading activities promote thinking about information in the text and provide suggestions for further reading. Links are reviewed and updated regularly.

5. **Wiederholungen** (review readings): After every five chapters, a review reading recycles grammar and vocabulary, and challenges students to develop individual reading strategies and to improve dictionary skills. Glosses in both the review readings and the readings after **Kapitel 7** concentrate on idioms and text-specific terminology. Pay attention to context and to functions as you read, and when necessary use your dictionary. For suggestions on dictionary use see Appendix C (296–298).

KAPITEL 1

1.1 German Nouns and the Definite Article

One of the most salient features of the German language is the indication of gender (and case) by means of the definite article. Whereas English has only one form of the definite article, *the*, which does not differentiate gender or number, German has four forms of the definite article: three singular and one plural. Dictionaries and the vocabulary lists in this book indicate nouns as *m.* (masculine), *f.* (feminine), *n.* (neuter), or *pl.* (plural). The corresponding German definite articles are as follows.

Masculine:	der
Feminine:	die
Neuter:	das
Plural, all genders:	die

1.2 Gender of Nouns

German nouns are masculine, feminine, or neuter. Because of the synthetic nature of German, it is essential from the beginning to learn each noun together with its gender-specific article.

Masculine:	der Mann, der Student, der Tisch (<i>the table</i>), der Stuhl (<i>the chair</i>)
Feminine:	die Frau (<i>the woman</i>), die Studentin, die Universität, die Lampe (<i>the lamp</i>)
Neuter:	das Haus, das Bett, das Kind (<i>the child</i>), das Buch (<i>the book</i>)

Note that all German nouns are capitalized.

To be able to read German with accuracy it is essential to learn the gender of each noun, since recognizing the gender of a noun is key to deciphering overall meaning and recognizing the function of the noun in a given situation. The general aids given in the following sections and in subsequent chapters will help you learn and remember the genders of German nouns; otherwise, consult a dictionary for assistance. The following aids are starting points to help you determine the gender of a noun.