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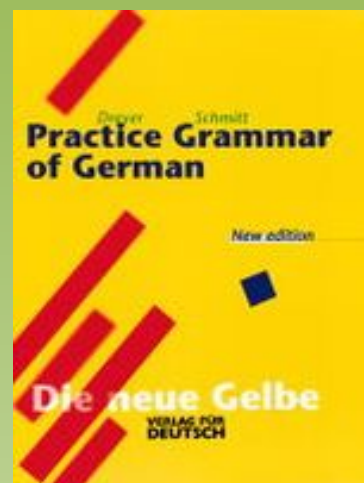
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Hilke Dreyer · Richard Schmitt

Lehr- und Übungsbuch
der deutschen Grammatik
Neubearbeitung

A Practice Grammar
of German

New edition

Max Hueber Verlag

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Preface

It is not possible to master a language without gaining insight into its system of rules. This is true of the mother tongue as well as the target language.

This book is a new edition of the highly successful *Lehr- und Übungsbuch der deutschen Grammatik*, first published in 1985. It is intended for lower-intermediate and intermediate learners of German who want to acquire a solid, coherent knowledge of German grammar. It offers simple, sometimes simplified rules with extensive examples, lists and tables for reference, and a large number of exercises. For the new edition, the rules and explanations have been broken down into smaller steps, and the exercises assigned to these individual steps more precisely. Some simple exercises have been added to sections dealing with elementary grammar.

This book is clearly structured. Parts I and II deal with the parts of the simple sentence, Part III with the adjective declensions and Part IV with the subjunctive. The use of prepositions is covered in Part V. This is often more of a semantic problem than a grammar one and it is recommended that Part V be used in conjunction with Parts I and II.

In the new edition § 63 has been added as an additional section. This offers an overview of the most important tenses and the differences between them. At the back of the book is a fold-out section for quick reference, with the most important features of verb conjugation and noun and adjective declension. The terminology used (and explained in detail in the appendix) corresponds to that generally used in German as a foreign language teaching today; declension tables follow the sequence nominative, accusative, dative, genitive. Grammar rules can only help you to understand how a language functions. It is more important to be able to use them. The exercises are therefore an important component of the book. Wherever possible and meaningful, the exercises are not made up of single, individual sentences, but constitute one continuous text.

Whilst the vocabulary used in the example sentences and in the exercises in the opening chapters is fairly simple, it becomes more demanding in the latter part of the book. The more challenging exercises are marked with a dark red box.

Thanks to the Key (available separately), which enables learners working on their own to check their answers, the *Practice Grammar of German* is also ideally suited for use as self-study material.

List of Grammar Terms and Abbreviations Used

see page 337

More challenging exercises are indicated by the fact that the exercise number is printed on a dark red background.

Contents

Part I

- § 1 **Noun Declension I** 9
 I Declension with the definite article in the singular 9
 II Declension with the definite article in the plural 11
 III Declension with the indefinite article 12
- § 2 **Noun Declension II (n-Declension)** 13
 I Declension with the definite and indefinite article 13
 II List of Nouns ending in *-e(n)* 14
 Exercise on noun declension as a whole (§ 1 and § 2)* 18
- § 3 **Use of the Article** 18
 I The definite article 18
 II The indefinite article 19
 III The singular with zero article 23
- § 4 **Declension of the Personal Pronouns** 27
- § 5 **Possessive Pronouns** 30
 I 1st to 3rd person possessive pronouns in the nominative singular and plural 30
 II Declension of the possessive pronouns 30
- § 6 **Verb Conjugation** 34
 I Preliminary note 34
 II Conjugation of the weak verbs 35
 III Conjugation of the strong verbs 37
 IV Conjugation of the verbs with auxiliary *-e* 39
 V Conjugation of the mixed verbs 40
 VI Special conjugation rules 41
- § 7 **Separable Verbs** 43
- § 8 **Inseparable Verbs** 47
- § 9 **Verbs which are Separable and Inseparable** 50
 I Rules 50
 II List 51
- § 10 **Reflexive Verbs** 55
- § 11 **The Imperative** 60
- § 12 **Forming the Perfect with „haben“ or „sein“** 63
 I Verbs with „sein“ 63
 II Verbs with „haben“ 63
- § 13 **Transitive and Intransitive Verbs which are often Confused** 67
 I *legen / liegen, stellen / stehen* etc. 67
 II More transitive und intransitive verbs 68
- § 14 **Verb Case Government** 70
 I Verbs with the accusative 70
 II Verbs with the dative 71
 III Verbs with the dative and the accusative 73
 IV Verbs with two accusatives 75
 V Verbs with the accusative and the genitive 75
 VI Verbs with the genitive 75
 VII Verbs with two nominatives 76
 VIII Fixed verb + accusative expressions 76
- § 15 **Verbs with a Prepositional Object** 76
 I Usage 77
 II Usage with questions, *dass*-clauses and infinitive constructions 77
 III Selection of the most commonly used verbs and their prepositions 78
 IV Fixed verb + accusative expressions with a prepositional object 83
- § 16 **Verbs with *dass*-Clauses or Infinitive Constructions** 83
 I General rules 83
 II Verbs followed by *dass*-clauses or infinitive constructions 84
 III Use of tenses in infinitive constructions 89
- § 17 **Questions** 93
 I Questions without an interrogative word 93
 II Questions with an interrogative word 96

- § 18 **Modal Verbs 100**
 I Modal verbs and their meaning 100
 II Forms and uses 101
 III Verbs which functions as modal verbs 104
 IV Modal verbs with two infinitives 105
- § 19 **The Passive 108**
 I Conjugation 108
 II Usage 110
 III The passive with modal verbs 113
 IV The passive in infinitive constructions 115
 Exercises on the passive as a whole 116
- § 20 **Modal Verbs for Subjective Statements 117**
 I Forms and uses 117
 II Subjunctive use of modal verbs to express subjectivity 118
- § 21 **Futur I and II to express Probability or a Suppositon 122**
 I Main clauses 122
 II Subordinate clauses 123
- Part II**
- § 22 **Word order in Main Clauses 126**
 I General rules 126
 II Word order with objects 127
 III Inversion 127
 IV Word order with pronouns in accusative and dative 128
 V Inversion 128
 VI Word order for reflexive pronouns 129
 VII Word order with adverbial and prepositional phrases 131
 VIII Word order with objects and adverbials 131
 IX Inversion 132
 X Word order with prepositional objects 133
 Exercises on the whole area 134
- § 23 **Sentence Coordinates: Conjunctions in Zero Position 135**
 I Word order 135
 II Inversion 136
 III Inversion with pronouns 136
 IV Omission of the subject after „und“ 137
- V Functions and uses of the coordinating conjunctions „aber, oder, denn, sondern“ 139
- § 24 **Sentence Coordinates: Conjunctions in Position I 141**
 I Word order 142
 II Functions and uses of the conjunctions 142
- § 25 **Subordinate Clauses 149**
- § 26 **Temporal Subordinate Clauses (Subordinate Clauses of Time) 150**
 I wenn, als 150
 II während, solange, bevor 152
 III nachdem, sobald 154
 IV bis, seit, seit(dem) 155
- § 27 **Causative Subordinate Clauses (Subordinate Clauses of Reason) 158**
- § 28 **Conditional Subordinate Clauses 160**
 I wenn, falls 160
 II Differentiating conditional clauses 161
- § 29 **Consecutive Subordinate Clauses (Subordinate Clauses of Consequence) 164**
- § 30 **Concessive Subordinate Clauses 166**
 I obwohl, obgleich, obschon 166
 II wenn ... auch noch so 168
- § 31 **Subordinate Clauses of Manner 168**
 I wie, als (Comparative clauses) 168
 II je..., desto (Comparative clauses) 170
 III wie (Clauses of manner) 172
 IV indem (Clauses of manner) 172
- § 32 **Clauses of Purpose (Clauses Expressing Intention) 174**
- § 33 **Infinitive Constructions with „um ... zu, ohne ... zu, anstatt ... zu“ 176**
- § 34 **Subordinate Interrogative Constructions 179**
- § 35 **Relative Clauses 181**
 I Relative clauses with a relative pronoun in the nominative, accusative and dative case 182
 II Relative clauses with a relative pronoun in the genitive case 184

- III Relative clauses with prepositions 186
- IV Relative clauses with „wo(-)“ 186
- V Relative clauses with „wer, wen, wem, wessen“ 187
- VI Relative clauses with „was“ 187
- Exercises on relative clauses as a whole 191
- Exercises on compound sentences as a whole 192
- Part III**
- § 36 Demonstrative Pronouns 194**
- I Declension of „dieser, -e, -es“; „jener, -e, -es“; „solcher, -e, -es“ 194
- II Declension of „derselbe, dieselbe, dasselbe“; „derjenige, diejenige, dasjenige“ 195
- III Declension of „der, die, das“ (as demonstrative pronouns) 195
- § 37 Indefinite Pronouns 199**
- I Indefinite pronouns used on their own as subjects or as objects 199
- II Indefinite pronouns with or without a noun 201
- § 38 Numerals 204**
- I Cardinals 204
- II Ordinals 206
- III More numerals 207
- § 39 Declension of the Adjective 213**
- I Declension with the definite article 213
- II Declension with the indefinite article 216
- III Declension with the possessive pronoun 218
- IV Declension with zero article in the singular 219
- V Declension with zero article in singular and plural 220
- Exercises on adjective declensions as a whole 221
- § 40 Comparison of Adjectives and Adverbs 224**
- I General rules 225
- II The use of the superlative 225
- III Special forms 226
- § 41 Adjectives and Participles as Nouns 230**
- § 42 Adverbs 232**
- I General rules 232
- II Temporal adverbs 232
- III Adverbs of manner 233
- IV Adverbs of place 233
- § 43 Adverbs with the Dative or Accusative Case 235**
- I Selection of the most commonly used adverbs with the dative case 235
- II Adverbs with temporal items and items of measure 236
- § 44 Adverbs with Prepositions 237**
- § 45 The „Zustandspassiv“ 239**
- § 46 The Participle Construction 240**
- I General rules 241
- II The participle construction with transitive verbs 241
- III The participle construction with intransitive verbs that form the Perfekt with „sein“ 242
- IV The participle construction with the „Zustandspassiv“ 243
- § 47 Participle Clauses 246**
- § 48 „haben“ and „sein“ with „zu“ 248**
- § 49 The „Gerundivum“ 251**
- § 50 Appositions 252**
- § 51 „Rangattribute“ 255**
- Part IV**
- § 52 The „Konjunktiv“ (Subjunctive) 257**
- § 53 „Konjunktiv II“ 258**
- I Present tense forms 258
- II Past tense forms 260
- III The passive in „Konjunktiv II“ 260
- § 54 The Use of „Konjunktiv II“ 261**
- I Sentences expressing unreal wishes 261
- II Unreal conditional sentences 262
- III „Konjunktiv II“ with „würde“ + infinitive 263

- IV Unreal comparative sentences 266
 - V Unreal consecutive sentences 267
 - VI More uses of „Konjunktiv II“ 269
 - § 55 The „Konjunktiv I“ 272
 - I Present tense forms 272
 - II Future tense forms (also suppositon) 273
 - III Past tense forms 274
 - IV The passive in „Konjunktiv I“ 274
 - § 56 Use of „Konjunktiv I“ 275
 - I Indirect speech 275
 - II Indirect questions 276
 - III Indirect imperative 276
- Part V**
- § 57 Prepositions 282
 - § 58 Prepositions with the Accusative Case 283
 - I bis 283
 - II durch 283
 - III entlang 284
 - IV für 284
 - V gegen 285
 - VI ohne 285
 - VII um 285
 - VIII wider 286
 - § 59 Prepositions with the Dative Case 287
 - I ab 287
 - II aus 287
 - III außer 287
 - IV bei 288
 - V dank 288
 - VI entgegen 288
 - VII entsprechend 289
 - VIII gegenüber 289
 - IX gemäß 289
 - X mit 289
 - XI nach 290
 - XII nebst 291
 - XIII samt 291
 - XIV seit 291
 - XV von 291
 - XVI zu 292
 - XVII zufolge 293
 - § 60 Prepositions with the Accusative and Dative Case 294
 - I an 294
 - II auf 295
 - III hinter 296
 - IV in 296
 - V neben 297
 - VI über 297
 - VII unter 298
 - VIII vor 299
 - IX zwischen 300
 - § 61 Prepositions with the Genitive Case 303
 - Exercises on prepositions as a whole 306
 - § 62 Verbs within Fixed Expressions 311
 - I Verbs which form a fixed expression with an accusative object 311
 - II Fixed verb + accusative expressions with a prepositional object 315
 - III Function verb structures 318
 - IV Idioms and their meanings 322
 - § 63 Use of Tenses: present, perfect, imperfect, past perfect 324
 - I Present and perfect 324
 - II Imperfect and past perfect 325
- Appendix**
- Punctuation rules 330
 - List of strong irregular verbs 331
 - List of grammar terms 337
 - Index 348

Part I

§ 1 Noun Declension I

All nouns may be declined in German. Declension means that a noun may change its form, for example its ending, according to its
gender (i. e. masculine, feminine or neuter)
case (i. e. its function within the sentence)
number (i. e. singular or plural)

In English sentences, nouns generally have endings in two situations: to form the possessive case and to form plurals. The same general principles apply in German, but the rules are more complex. There are more endings and more occasions when endings are added in German.

German nouns belong to one of five declensions, and their endings change according to which of these declensions they belong to. In addition German nouns belong to one of three genders: masculine, feminine or neuter. This is purely a grammatical classification, however, and the gender of a noun is rarely related to the sex of the person or thing it refers to. It isn't advisable to try to learn complex rules for determining the gender of nouns. You will find it much easier to master gender if you memorize the definite article with each noun.

A good dictionary will provide guidance on how to decline a noun. Note that the nominative singular form is given in full, followed by the gender of the noun, followed by the genitive singular and nominative plural ending where appropriate.

I Declension with the definite article in the singular

<i>Singular</i>	<i>maskulin</i>	<i>feminin</i>	<i>neutral</i>	<i>in answer to</i>
Nominativ	der Vater	die Mutter	das Kind	Wer? / Was?
Akkusativ	den Vater	die Mutter	das Kind	Wen? / Was?
Dativ	dem Vater	der Mutter	dem Kind	Wem?
Genitiv	des Vaters	der Mutter	des Kindes	Wessen?

The genitive ending in the masculine and neuter singular:

- s is used in nouns with more than one syllable:
des Lehrers, des Fensters, des Kaufmanns
- es is usually used in nouns with one syllable:
des Mannes, des Volkes, des Arztes
- es must be used in nouns ending with -s, -ss, -ß, -x, -z, -tz:
das Glas – des Glases, der Fluss – des Flusses, der Fuß – des Fußes, der Komplex – des Komplexes, der Schmerz – des Schmerzes, das Gesetz – des Gesetzes



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