

“ASSIMIL” METHOD BOOKS

FRENCH WITHOUT TOIL

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*Bound books, lavishly illustrated,
containing lessons recorded on gramophone records.*

“ASSIMIL” SPARE-TIME DAILY COURSES

**GERMAN
WITHOUT TOIL**

BY

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“ASSIMIL”

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"GERMAN WITHOUT TOIL" RECORDS



The text of the lessons and exercises of "German Without Toil" has been recorded on gramophone records by talented German artists, both men and women. Fifteen different voices are heard so that the student's ear may have as wide a training range as possible.

Although the phonetic pronunciation is given in this handbook, the records are strongly recommended. They are an invaluable help to the learner because they ensure perfect pronunciation, and by their nature afford a quicker and more natural grasp of the spoken language.

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HOW TO LEARN GERMAN WITHOUT TOIL

The first thing we want to impress on you is that you ought not to consider the study of this book as drudgery.

We firmly believe that you can acquire a fluent knowledge of colloquial German provided that you bear in mind **two very important things** :

FIRST : do not try to do too much at once, but do a little regularly. Half an hour steadily, day by day, is worth infinitely more than a frenzied burst of an hour or two at irregular intervals. Let "a little and often" be your motto.

SECONDLY : as far as possible, avoid working when you are mentally tired. When your brain is fatigued, your powers of assimilation become saturated, and the more you try to take in, the less you really absorb.

To sum up, we ask you to apply yourself to the study of German with the same attention you would give to mastering the rules of a new game. If you do this, you will soon realise that studying by the "ASSIMIL" method will not be drudgery but a fascinating hobby which brings its own reward.



There is nothing to learn by heart, not even those formidable declensions, for instead of compelling you to memorize from dry-as-dust tables we shall introduce word-endings in everyday sentences which are so easy to absorb. Gradually, almost unconsciously, they will become fixed in your memory.

This is the way to work :

Read the first paragraph which gives the German text. Then compare it word for word with the phonetic transcription and with the English translation. Afterwards, re-read the German text, **this time aloud**.

Do the same for each subsequent paragraph, and when you have reached the end of the lesson read the German text aloud once more, *referring to the pronunciation and the translation only when you do not feel quite sure of them*.

Figures in brackets—e.g. “(1)”—refer to the **Notes**. Read these notes carefully, and the lesson will then be over. Of course, this does not mean that you will know the lesson thoroughly, but on the following day—or even an hour or two later, according to how your leisure is arranged—read it again before beginning the next one.

A short interval between repetitions will pay better dividends than uninterrupted and tiring repetitions, which would tend to make you bored rather than enthusiastic about your new venture.

Gradually, as you progress, you will find that sentences, constructions and colloquialisms are purposely repeated so that they may become more and more familiar to you.

The two “waves” :

Learning the language in two “waves” (passive and active stages) is one of the most attractive features of “*German Without Toil*.” It quickly brings you to the point where you can enjoy German even though you do not understand all its grammatical subtleties.

The first “wave” (passive stage) is intended to take you through the whole course at a lively pace. As soon as you can understand and repeat a lesson, you should **move on to the next one**. In this way you will avoid the dullness of what used to be termed “the grammar grind.” Absorb as far as possible with your ear

rather than your mind; you can, if you like, think of the way in which a baby understands what it is told long before it learns the niceties of written and spoken language.

The second “wave” (active stage) begins about a third of the way through the first “wave” (Lesson 46). This is the proper time for you to go back to lesson one and start to think about the language and its grammatical constructions, and you will find that you will learn all the more easily for having postponed your more formal attack upon it.

Do not let the second “wave” prevent you from keeping up a good pace with the rest of the first “wave.” Go on to the end of the book at your original pace, but at the same time link each new lesson with an old one studied in more detail. Thus the simple comprehension of Lesson 46 should be linked with a new and analytical approach to Lesson 1, Lesson 47 will be linked with Lesson 2 and so on.

In the phonetic transcriptions, the stressed syllables are shown in bold type.



A NOTE ON THE ASSIMIL RECORDS

These records will bring you in your own home the voices of German actors and actresses whose pronunciation is the standard one; you can listen to them over and over again.

If you devote, say, *a quarter of an hour* (or even *two periods of ten minutes*) daily to learning by the “ASSIMIL” method, you will achieve your object.

Listen carefully to the records, repeat with the utmost care what you have heard and you may rest assured that once you go to Germany or meet German-speaking people you will from the very outset make your meaning clear.

If you have no gramophone, we shall be pleased to assist you in choosing a model to suit your ideas of price.

KEY TO PRONUNCIATION

(The guide which follows shows you how to begin to tackle spoken German. It does not pretend to give you the exact sounds of the language; these will reach your ear, your memory and your tongue as you listen to the speakers who have recorded these lessons. Think of the guide as a bridge between English and German sounds. Cross the bridge as often as you like, but do not linger on it, and remember that what you **hear** is your real destination. The day will come when you can burn the bridge.)

Assimil Symbol	Nearest English Sound	German Example	Meaning	Phonetic Transcription
ah	father	Name	name	nahmë
a	hut	Mann	man	man
è	air	Bär	bear	bër
e	bell	Feld	field	fèlt
ay	day	lehrt	teaches	layrt
ë	father	morgen	tomorrow	morgën
ee	sheep	dieser	this	deezër
i	big	Kind	child	kint
oh	rose	Rose	rose	rchzë
o	got	Gott	God	got
oo	foot	Hund	dog	hcont
ôô	brute	Blut	blood	blôôt
ü	view	über	over	über
eu	merchant	Löffel	spoon	leufël
éú	(lengthened form of last sound)	schön	beautiful	shëün
aī	sky	mein	my	maīn
		Hain	grove	haīn
ow	now	Haus	house	howss
oi	boy	heute	today	hoitë
		Bäume	trees	boimë
cH	loch	noch	still	noCH
çh	human (breathed initial sound)	Mädchen	girl	mëtçhën
sh	she	schön	beautiful	shëün
g	good (always hard)	gut	good	gôôt
ng	ringing (g not sounded)	lang	long	lang
ī	yes	ja	yes	īah
zh	pleasure	Ingenieur	engineer	inzhayniëür

Here are a few other points worth noting before you start :

A German

z is pronounced like ts : Zeit : tsait

w is pronounced like v : Wein : vaīn

v is pronounced like f : von : fon

A German s before t or p at the beginning of a syllable is pronounced

sh : Stein : shtain; Spiel : shpeel.

A German r is always pronounced, even if sometimes only slightly. English often ignores it, but the Scots do it more justice. Think of a Southern Englishman's pronunciation of "murder," then of a Scot's—and imitate the latter.

Before you begin make sure you have read

the introduction.

The first three lessons are broken up so as to make them as easy as possible. Each German sentence is followed by its *pronunciation*, its *translation* and the *notes*.

Erste (1.) Lektion

Erste Lektion means First Lesson.

Pronunciation : ayrstë lektsiöhn, (ay as in "day", ë as in "father" (last sound) and e as in "shell").

Stress the sounds printed in bold type.

In English "tion" is pronounced "shën", but in German you must change it into « siöhn » (ī as in "yes" and oh as in "rose").



1 Der Tee ist gut.

Pronunciation : dër tay ist göôt.

Der as in "dare"; **Tee** as in the first syllable of "Taylor"; **gut** as in "brute".

English : The tea is good.

Note the capital letter in « Tee ». In German all nouns are written with a capital letter.

2 Ist der Tee gut?**Pronunciation** : ist dèr tay gôôt?**English** : Is the tea good?3 Wie ist der Tee?**Pronunciation** : vee ist dèr tay?

ee as in "sheep". Do NOT forget to pronounce the r in der.

English : What is the tea like?4 Er ist gut.**Pronunciation** : èr ist (and not « èr-rist », do not slur over!) gôôt.**English** : It is good.5 Die Tasse ist klein.**Pronunciation** : dee tassè ist kläin.**English** : The cup is small.

Die as in "deal"; Tasse with an open a, somewhat like the u in "hut", ai as in "sky".

NOTE. — The is der before a masculine noun, and die before a feminine. In German, names of inanimate objects have a gender. In order to remember it more easily, always link article and noun in your mind. Think of tea : der Tee, and cup : die Tasse.

6 Ist die Tasse klein?**Pronunciation** : ist dee tassè kläin?**English** : Is the cup small?7 Wie ist die Tasse?**Pronunciation** : vee ist dee tassè?**English** : What is the cup like?8 Sie ist klein.**Pronunciation** : zee ist kläin.

S before a vowel must be pronounced like the z in "zebra."

English : It is small.

9 der, die; er, sie; wie.**Pronunciation** : dèr, dee; èr, zee; vee.**English** : The (*masculine gender*), the (*feminine gender*); he, she; how.Zweite (2.) Lektion

Zweite Lektion (second lesson) is pronounced tsvaïtë lektsiöhn.

Z is always pronounced ts and will always be so shown in our pronunciation.

1 Mein Tee ist gut, aber meine Tasse ist zu klein.**Pronunciation** : maïn tay ist göôt, ahbër maïnë tassë ist tsôô klaïn.**English** : My tea is good, but my cup is too small.2 Ich bin gross und stark.**English** : I am tall and strong.**Pronunciation** : Here we meet what is generally—but quite wrongly—regarded as a difficulty in spoken German: how to pronounce **ch**. There aretwo **ch** sounds, a soft one and a hard one. Here we are dealing with the soft one, which is found after the vowels e, i and ü (and the diphthongs ai, ei, äu, eu).First say "human" very slowly, taking care not to drop the **h**. Next isolate the **h** and the unwritten short **i** which begin the word. Say this several times. This is the soft **ch**. Put an i in front and practise: ich, ich... This sound is represented by çh in our system of pronunciation.Here is another way to produce it. Say "leash" Notice that as you pronounce the **sh** your tongue rises towards the roof of your mouth. Now lower your tongue, press the tip **under** your lower teeth and try to say **sh**. You will not be able to produce the original sound; instead you will be pronouncing the soft German **ch**. Practise once or twice, keeping your tongue well down.

Now say sentence No. 2: ich bin grohss oont shtark.

D at the end of words is generally pronounced like t. When st begins a word it is pronounced sht, just as when you pronounce the compound word ash-tray.3 Wir sind nicht gross, aber wir sind stark.**Pronunciation** : veer zint nicht grohss, ahbër veer zint shtark (ah as in "father").**English** : We are not tall, but we are strong.*Be careful of the ch in nicht! Keep the o long and closed as in "rose".*

6 sechs (zekss)

4 Ist dieser Wein teuer?

Pronunciation : ist deezër vaïn toïër.

English : Is this wine expensive (*dear*) ?



5 Er ist nicht sehr teuer, aber er ist zu teuer für mich.

Pronunciation : èr ist nìcht zayr toïër, ahbër èr ist tsôô toïër für mìch.

Notice the difference which the two dots (which we call "Modification" and the Germans a Umlaut ») make to the sound of the vowel u. To pronounce this modified vowel, try to say ee while keeping your lips rounded as if to whistle.

English : It is not very expensive, but it is too expensive for me.

sieben (zeebën') 7

6 Diese Maschine ist nicht teuer, aber sie ist nicht neu.

Pronunciation : deezë masheenë ist nìcht toïër, ahbër zee ist nìcht noï.

English : This machine is not expensive, but it is not new.

Don't forget to pronounce the final ë in "Maschine", while stressing schi (pronounce : shee).



7 der Wein, mein Wein; die Maschine, meine Maschine; ich bin, wir sind, er ist; dieser Tee, diese Tasse.

Pronunciation : dër vaïn, maïn vaïn; deë masheenë, maïnë masheenë; ìch bin, veer zint, èr ist; deezër tay, deezë tassë.

English : the wine, my wine; the machine, my machine; I am, we are, he is; this tea, this cup.

Note that the masculine form of "this" is **dieser**; and the feminine form, **diese**.

Dritte (3.) Lektion

Pronunciation : drittë.

1 Wo ist Ihre Tochter?

Pronunciation : voh is eerë tochtër.

English : Where is your daughter?

The noun **Tochter** contains the other German **ch** sound, the so-called guttural **ch**. This new **ch** sound occurs when **ch** follows the vowels **a**, **o** and **u**, and it is pronounced like the Scottish **ch** in *loch*. Do not confuse it with the sound in *loch* (which is how many English people mispronounce *loch*) but perfect your pronunciation in two ways : listen to a real Scot saying *loch* and listen to the "Assimil" record at this point. We shall use the symbol **ch** to represent this sound. Try to remember that it is produced in the throat and sounds like the short explosive noise you make in trying to clear your throat of a fish-bone which has lodged there.

2 Sie ist noch oben.

Pronunciation : zee ist noch ohbën.

The last syllable is pronounced rapidly and the **ë** sound nearly disappears. You should almost say *ohbn*.

English : She is still upstairs.

3 Ist sie krank?

Pronunciation : ist zee krank.

Pronounce **ng** as in "long". Do not forget that the **a** of "krank" is almost like the short English **u** in "hut".

English : Is she ill?

4 Nein, sie ist nicht krank, aber müde.

Pronunciation : naïn, zee ist nicht krank ahbër müde.

English : No, she is not ill, but tired.



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5 Ich bin auch sehr müde.Pronunciation : igh bin owcH zayr müdë.
ow as in "house".

English : I am very tired too (I am also very tired).

6 Wollen Sie ein Glas Wein?**Pronunciation :** volën zee aïn glass vaïn?**English :** Will you (have) a glass (of) wine?

You will notice that in sentence No. 4 "sie" means she, and that in sentence No. 6 "Sie" means you, the only difference being the capital letter.

Note also that in German they say "a glass wine".

7 Mit Vergnügen; danke sehr.**Pronunciation :** mit fergnüen; dangkë zayr.

Whereas a German **w** is pronounced like an English **v**, a German **v** is pronounced like an English **f**.

English : With pleasure, thank you very much.8 Ihr Wein ist sehr gut.**Pronunciation :** eer vaïn ist zayr göôt.**English :** Your wine is very good.9 die Tochter, meine Tochter, Ihre Tochter.**Pronunciation :** dee tochtër, mainë tochtër, eerë tochtër.**English :** The daughter, my daughter, your daughter.10 der Wein, mein Wein, Ihr Wein.**Pronunciation :** der vaïn, main vaïn, eer vaïn.**English :** The wine, my wine, your wine.

From lesson 4 onwards we are introducing simple pieces of dialogue which will gradually make you familiar with everyday conversation. At the same time, we shall not break up the lessons into single sentences as we have done hitherto.

In each of the following lessons you will find the material in this order :

1. The German text.
2. The pronunciation.
3. The English translation.
4. Notes, to which reference is made in the German text by figures in brackets.

As a general rule, the German text and the pronunciation will appear on the left-hand page and the English text and notes on the right.

Here is the best way to study. Start by reading aloud the page number and lesson number; then read the German text, comparing it very carefully with the pronunciation and the English translation. Pay special attention to the notes.

When you have gone through the whole of the lesson in this way, start again with each German sentence; read it aloud two or three times, taking great care that you fully understand what it means and then take your eyes from the book and repeat the sentence from memory. This does not mean that you have to learn it permanently by heart but merely to repeat it immediately after seeing it on the printed page. If you do this daily you will become quite fluent.

It is useful, if you have time, to copy out the German text of the lessons. This will help you to learn German spelling and absorb German idioms.

One word of warning : never copy out the pronunciation. This would only confuse you.

Vierte (4.) Lektion

Ich bin nicht allein

- 1 — Wo ist Ihr Vater?
- 2 — Mein Vater (1) und meine (2) Mutter sind in Berlin.
- 3 — Mein Bruder Hans (3) ist heute auch in Berlin.
- 4 — Sind Sie ganz allein?
- 5 — Nein, meine Tante ist hier für eine Woche.
- 6 — Wie heisst Ihre Tante?
- 7 — Sie heisst Johanna.
- 8 — Ich bin hier; er ist oben; sie ist krank.
- 9 — Sie ist klein; Sie sind stark.

ich bin nicht alain. — 1 voh ist eer fahtër? — 2 main fahtër oont maïnë moottër zint in berleen. — 3 main brôödër hans (don't drop the aitch) ist hoitë owcH in berleen. — 4 zint zee gants alain? (pronounce *a* as an open vowel, almost like *u* in "but"). — 5 nain, maïnë tantë ist heer (make the ee sound long) für aïnë vohHë. — 6 vee haïst eerë tantë? — 7 zee haïst iohanna (don't forget the h!). — 8 ich bin heer (ee long); èr ist ohbën; zee ist krank. — 9 zee ist klaïn; zee zint shtark.

Fünfte (5.) Lektion

Ich bin zu jung (1)

- 1 — Was ist das?
- 2 — Das ist eine Uhr für meine Schwester.

ich bin tsôô iöong. — 1 vas ist das? — 2 das ist aïnë ôô für maïnë shvestër.

From now onwards, the pronunciation of the numbers of the lessons can be found by referring to the corresponding numbers of the pages, and adding *të*. For example, to translate "fifth", look at page 5; it is headed « fünf ». Add *të* and the result is « fünfte » (pronounced *fünftë*).

Ich bin hier!



I AM NOT ALONE

1 Where is your father? — 2 My father and my mother are in Berlin. — 3 My brother Hans is also in Berlin today (*is today also*). — 4 Are you quite alone? — 5 No, my aunt is here for a week. — 6 What is your aunt's name? (*How calls your aunt?*) — 7 Her name is Joan. (*She calls Joan.*) — 8 I am here; he is upstairs; she is ill. — 9 She is small; you are strong.



NOTES. — (1) *Mein* is masculine.

(2) *Meine* is feminine.

(3) *Hans* corresponds to John or Jack. The sacred rule "Don't drop your aitches" applies in certain cases to German.

I AM TOO YOUNG

1 What is this? — 2 It is a watch for my sister.



NOTES. — (1) Pronounce *jung*: with *ng* as in long.

- 3 — Sie ist sehr schön.
 4 — Ja, aber sie ist auch sehr teuer.
 5 — Haben Sie auch eine Uhr?
 6 — Nein, ich bin noch zu jung (1).
 7 — Wo ist Ihre Schwester?
 8 — Sie ist oben; wollen Sie sie (2) sehen?
 (3)
 9 — Mit Vergnügen; ist Ihre Mutter auch oben?

3 zee ist zayr shêün (êü is like the vowel sound in "bird" but is pronounced longer; the lips should be pursed as for whistling). — 4 Iah, ahbër zee ist owcH zayr toër. — 5 habbën zee owcH aïne ôôr? — 6 naïn, ich bin noch tsôô iooing. — 7 voh ist eerë shvestër? — 8 zee ist ohbën; vollën zee zee zayën? — 9 mit fergnügën, ist eerë mootër owcH ohbën?



EXERCISE (From this point onwards, each lesson will include a reading exercise for which you will find no special phonetic transcription, as no new words are included. You will, however, be quite able to read it correctly by yourself. You must read every sentence repeatedly):

- 1 Meine Uhr ist klein. — 2 Ist Ihre Tochter hier? — 3 Was sehen Sie? — 4 Wie heisst diese Maschine? — 5 Dieser Wein ist zu stark. — 6 Wir sehen Ihre Tante. — 7 Ist diese Tasse für mich?

Sechste (6.) Lektion

Ich bin nicht der Erste

- 1 — Was wollen (1) Sie tun?
 2 — Ich will Deutsch lernen.

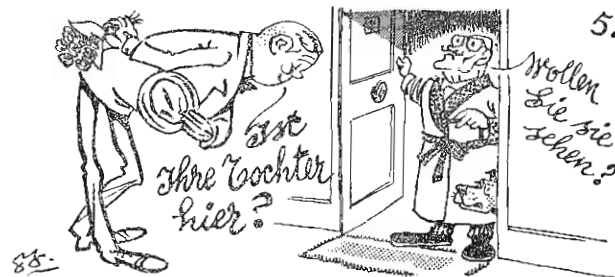
ich bin nicht dër ayrstë. — 1 vas vollën zee töôn? — 2 ich vil doïtsh lernën.

3 It (*she*) is very beautiful. — 4 Yes, but it (*she*) is also very expensive. — 5 Have you also a watch? — 6 No, I am still too young. — 7 Where is your sister? — 8 She is upstairs; do you want to see her? — 9 With pleasure; is your mother upstairs too?



(2) Here is an example of two pronouns which sound alike but which are written with, respectively, a capital and small s: *Sie* means you and *sie* means her.

(3) The Germans do not use an auxiliary for interrogative sentences. Do you want to see her? is constructed as: Want you her see?



EXERCISE. — 1 My watch is small. — 2 Is your daughter here? — 3 What do you see? — 4 What is this machine called? — 5 This wine is too strong. — 6 We see your aunt. — 7 Is this cup for me?

I AM NOT THE FIRST

- 1 What do you want to do? — 2 I want to learn German.



NOTES. — (1) *Wollen* is the old English verb to will as in: do what you will. In modern English it must be translated, as here, by to want.

3 — Wie wollen Sie es (2) lernen?

4 — Ich will selbst (3) lernen, ohne Lehrer.

5 — Das ist interessant; aber ist es möglich?

6 — Warum nicht? Ich bin nicht der Erste.
Es ist nicht so schwer.

3 vee vollën zee ess lernën? — 4 ıch vil zelpst lernën, ohne layrër. — 5 das ist intëressant; ahbër ist es mëglich? — 6 vah-room nıcht? ıch bin nıcht dër ayrstë, es ist nıcht zoh shvayr.



ÜBUNG :

1 Ich will Deutsch lernen. — 2 Wir wollen (vollën) Deutsch lernen. — 3 Sie wollen Deutsch lernen. — 4 Wir lernen Deutsch. — 5 Sie lernen Deutsch. — 6 Es ist möglich. — 7 Ist es möglich? — 8 Es ist nicht möglich. — 9 Ist es schwer? — 10 Es ist nicht schwer. — 11 Warum lernen Sie Deutsch? — 12 Warum lernen Sie nicht? — 13 ich; wir; er; sie; Sie.

Siebente (7.) Lektion

REVISION AND MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

In this first week's study we have already learnt some short sentences, which may be considered encouraging progress. More important still, we are growing used to German pronunciation. Of course, we still need practice, especially in the sounds which have no exact English equivalent, such as a, ü, eu, êu, ch, cH, but do

3 How do you want to learn it? — 4 I want to learn it by myself (*I want self learn*), without (a) teacher. — 5 That is interesting, but is it possible? — 6 Why not? I am not the first. It is not so difficult.

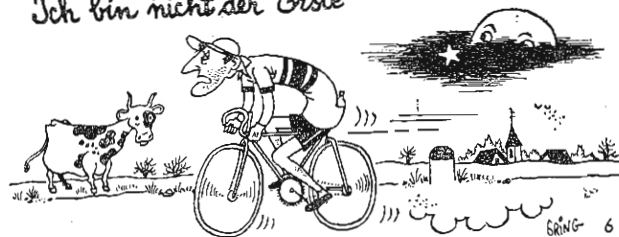


(2) Note the construction : how want you it learn?

(3) *Selbst* here means myself. It can also mean yourself, himself, etc., according to sense.

This lesson is a short one, but it brings you fresh material. Repeat it carefully as well as the exercise.

Ich bin nicht der Erste



EXERCISE. — 1 I want to learn German. — 2 We want to learn German. — 3 You want to learn German. — 4 We learn German. — 5 You learn German. — 6 It is possible. — 7 Is it possible? — 8 It is not possible. — 9 Is it difficult? — 10 It is difficult. — 11 Why do you learn German? — 12 Why do you not learn? — 13 I; we; he; she; you.

not let this discourage you. A Frenchman, for example, has a far harder job because fewer of his native sounds occur in German. Now that you have finished this first week, and provided you have followed the instructions reasonably carefully, you should not come across any greater pronunciation difficulties in the future. Remember: it is not difficult—*es ist nicht so schwer*.

Do not let the grammar worry you. Just go on repeating the sentences without bothering too much about the difference between German and English

constructions. You will have everything explained in due course, in great detail and more than once. But we hope that as you grow more and more used to German expressions many of the grammatical explanations will seem unnecessary.



Ein, eins. You will have seen that the number of the first page is given as *eins*, whereas in sentence 6 of lesson 3 the phrase *ein Glas Wein* occurs. The reason is that when *one* is used in counting it is *eins*, but when it means *a* or *an* it is *ein*.

By the way, do not forget to read aloud the numbers of the pages and the lessons. In doing this you are learning to count in German.

The adjective. We pointed out that *ein* and *mein* (masculine) became *eine* and *meine* when feminine (*eine Maschine, meine Tante*). Did you notice that the adjective did not change? Why, you may ask, *meine Tasse ist klein* and not *meine Tasse ist kleine*? The answer is that the adjective does not change when it is attributive, that is, is separated from its noun, but when it qualifies its noun directly, that is, comes just before the noun, it varies as in *die kleine Tasse* (the small cup).

More about pronunciation. When a vowel is followed by *h* it is always long. *Sehr, ihr, Uhr, ohne,*

Lehrer are pronounced with a long vowel: *zayr, eer, ôôr, ohnë, layrër*. A vowel is often long when followed by a single consonant: *gut, schön, tun—gôôt, shëün, tôôn*. Vowels followed by a double consonant are nearly always short, even when they are stressed: *die Mutter* (the mother: *dee moottër*); *wollen Sie* (do you want; *vollën zee*).

Hans ist heute hier. When reading this sentence, do not imitate the Cockney who drops his aitches. Remember you have three aspirates here.

Practise the soft ch and the guttural ch. Say: *ich, mich, nicht, möglich* (I, me, not, possible), and: *noch, die Woche, die Tochter* (still, the week, the daughter).

REMEMBER THAT THE **soft ch** IS INDICATED BY "ch" AND THE **guttural ch** BY "CH".

Remember that **z** is always pronounced **ts**. Practise this with the words *zu, ganz, zehn*.



Accented syllables. Do the English or the Americans realize the difficulty foreigners have in placing the stress correctly in such words as *performance, colonel, industry*? To English speakers it is easy because it is automatic. German does not present very much difficulty,

because almost invariably it is the root of the word which is stressed. You have not yet learnt to pick out the root at sight, but it will not be long before you will be able to do so.

The alphabet. We can almost hear you exclaim: "When are we going to learn the German alphabet?"

Achte (8.) Lektion

Ach so!

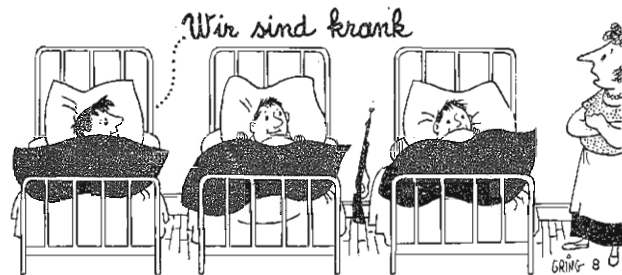
- 1 — Wo wohnen Sie?
- 2 — Wir wohnen in Frankfurt; es ist eine schöne Stadt.
- 3 — Und ich wohne in Mainz.
- 4 — Unser Grossvater wohnt auch in Mainz.
- 5 — Wie heisst er?
- 6 — Er heisst Herr Rudolf Böhme; er hat eine Brauerei (1).
- 7 — Ich kenne sie sehr gut; es ist eine grosse Brauerei (1).
- 8 — Was tut Ihr Vater?

ach zoh! — 1 voh vohnën zee? — 2 veer vohnën in frank-fôort; es ist aïné shéünë shtat. — 3 oont ich vohnë in maïnts. — 4 oonzër grohsfahtër vohnt owch in maïnts. — 5 vee haïsst èr? — 6 èr haïsst herr rôôdolf bëümë; èr hat aïné broweraï. — 7 ich kennë zee zayr gôôt; es ist aïné grohssë broweraï. — 8 vas tôôt eer fahtër?

But if you reflect, you will remember that you started to speak your own language before you learned the alphabet. We shall give you the German alphabet later on when you need it, and not before. You will also meet the Gothic type which is still sometimes used by the Germans. But for the present we shall carry on with our short dialogues and gradually lengthen them.

WHY?

1 Where do you live? — 2 We live in Frankfurt, it is a beautiful city. — 3 And I live in Mainz. — 4 Our grandfather lives in Mainz too. — 5 What is his name? — 6 His name is (*he is called*) Mr. Rudolf Böhme; he owns (*he has*) a brewery. — 7 I know it very well; it is a big brewery. — 8 What does your father do?



NOTES. — (1) Quite likely you will not need a dictionary to understand the meaning of *Brauerei*; it has the same origin as *brewery*. As you progress you will find that you can guess the meaning of hundreds of German words at sight.

- 9 — Er ist Lehrer (2).
 10 — Kennen Sie Frau Emma Schneider?
 11 — Jawohl (3), sie ist meine Lehrerin.
 12 — Ach so (4)! Sie ist meine Tante.

— 9 èr ist layrër. — 10 kennèn zee frow emma shnaidër? — 11 jahvohl, zee ist mainë layrërin. — 12 ach! zoh, zee ist mainë tantë.



ÜBUNG (5) :

- 1 Ich wohne, wir wohnen; ich lerne; wir lernen.
 — 2 Er wohnt; er lernt; er heisst; er tut. — 3 Ich kenne, wir kennen, Sie kennen, er kennt, sie kennt.
 — 4 Was lernen Sie? — 5 Was lernt sie? — 6 Wir sind krank. — 7 Wir haben eine Schwester. — 8 Er ist oben. — 9 Sie hat meine Tasse. — 10 Sie haben meine Tasse.

Neunte (9.) Lektion

Ich möchte wissen (1)

- 1 — Wer ist dieser Mann?
 2 — Ich kenne ihn nicht; ich glaube, er ist ein Franzose.
 3 — Das ist wohl möglich; denn sein Auto ist französisch (2).

ich meuchte vissën (As you already know how to pronounce : ich, ist, er, ein, das, wo, Sie, it is now quite unnecessary to give you the pronunciation of these words any longer. In order to avoid tiresome repetition, we are gradually going to eliminate the pronunciation of words which frequently recur. This will enable you to pick out the pronunciation of new ones more quickly.)

1 vër -- deezër man? — 2 kennë een nicht -- glowbë -- frantsöhzë. 3 vohl mëügligh; denn zain owtoh -- frantsëüzish.

9 He is (a) teacher. — 10 Do you know Mrs. Emma Schneider? — 11 Certainly, she is my school-mistress. — 12 Really! She is my aunt.



(2) *Lehrer* means : (school) master or teacher. Note that in German we say : he is teacher.

(3) *Jawohl* : colloquial and emphatic for "yes".

(4) *Ach so!* is a widely-used phrase in conversation and usually conveys surprise when the speaker suddenly realizes something.

(5) *Übung* (pronounced üboong) means exercise.



EXERCISE. — 1 I live (I dwell), we live; I learn, we learn. — 2 He lives; he learns; he is called; he does. — 3 I know, we know, you know, he knows, she knows. — 4 What do you learn? — 5 What does she learn? — 6 We are ill. — 7 We have a sister. — 8 He is upstairs. — 9 She has my cup. — 10 You have my cup.



People say that before knowing a word well, you must forget it seven times and learn it as many times again; we haven't yet reached that stage.

I SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW

1 Who is this man? — 2 I don't know him; I think (believe) he is a Frenchman. — 3 That is quite possible (it may well be so), for his car is French.



NOTES. — *In this lesson, the sentences are a bit longer. After you have read them a second time, try to repeat each of them in full without looking at the text. If you cannot, repeat each half of every sentence, stopping at the semicolon.*

(1) We have already had *ich will, wir wollen* (I want, we want). *Ich möchte* (a verb in the conditional tense with something of the same meaning) is in constant use in German and the sooner you are familiar with it the better.

(2) *Ein Franzose* : a Frenchman. *Eine Französin* (frantsëüzin) : a Frenchwoman; *französisch* : French (adjective).

- 4 — Wissen Sie, wo er wohnt?
 5 — Wahrscheinlich im Park-Hotel; er ist immer allein.
 6 — Ja, er kennt niemand; und er ist schon eine ganze Woche hier.
 7 — Ich möchte gern wissen, was er hier tut.

— 4 wissen

-- wohnt? — 5 wahrshainlich im park (be careful to sound the "r") hohtel (with the initial h sounded) -- immer allain. — 6 iah -- kennt neemant; oont -- shohn -- gantsë vochë heer. — 7 meuchtë gern vissen vas -- heer töot.



ÜBUNG :

- 1 Kennen Sie mich? — 2 Ich kenne Sie. —
 3 Kennen Sie mich nicht? — 4 Ich kenne Sie nicht.
 — 5 Was glauben Sie? — 6 Wir wissen, wo er wohnt.
 — 7 Unsere Lehrerin ist wahrscheinlich krank. —
 8 Diese Frau hat eine schöne Tochter. — 9 Ich möchte wissen, was Sie lernen. — 10 Wer ist hier? —
 Niemand.

Zehnte (10.) Lektion

Kein Glück

- 1 — Warum ist Ihr Freund so traurig?
 2 — Er hat kein Glück : seine Frau (1) ist immer krank, und sein Geschäft geht nicht gut.
 3 — Was für ein Geschäft hat er?

kein glük. — 1 varoom -- eer froint zoh trowrich? — 2 -- hat kein glük : zainë frow -- immer krank oont zain gëshëft gayt nicht gööt. — 3 vas für.

- 4 Do you know where he is staying? — 5 Probably at (in) the Park Hotel; he is always alone. — 6 Yes, he knows nobody; and he has already been here a whole week (and he is already a whole week here). — 7 I should like to know what he is doing here.



9.

- EXERCISE. — 1 Do you know me? — 2 I know you. —
 3 Don't you know me? — 4 I don't know you. — 5 What do you believe? — 6 We know where he lives. — 7 Our school-mistress is probably ill. — 8 This lady has a beautiful daughter. — 9 I should like to know what you are learning. — 10 Who is here? — Nobody.

NO LUCK

- 1 Why is your friend so sad? — 2 He has no luck; his wife is always ill, and his business is not going well (does not go well). — 3 What sort of business has he? (what for a business has he?).



NOTES. — (1) Frau means woman and wife.

- 4 — Er ist Schneider, und die Konkurrenz ist sehr gross.
 5 — Wie viele (2) Schneider gibt es hier?
 6 — Ich glaube, es gibt (3) fünf oder sechs.
 7 — Das ist zu viel für eine kleine Stadt.
 8 — Sie haben recht.
 9 — Was tun Sie heute abend?
 10 — Nichts (4); ich bin zu müde.

4 -- shnaidër -- konkooerents -- grohss. — 5 vee feelë -- geept es. — 6 glowbë -- fünf ohdër zeks. — 7 tsôöfeel -- kleinë shtat. — 8 -- hahbën (sound the aitch) recht. — 9 -- tôôn -- hoitë (don't forget the h!) ahbënt. — 10 nichts -- müdë (long ü).



ÜBUNG :

- 1 Sie haben kein Glück. — 2 Sie hat viel Glück.
 — 3 Meine Frau hat immer recht. — 4 Das geht nicht.
 — 5 Wir tun nichts. — 6 Er tut, was er will. —
 7 Was gibt es hier? — 8 Wie heisst dieser Herr?
 — 9 Wir wissen nichts. — 10 Wo ist Ihr Freund heute?

Elfte (11.) Lektion

Tun Sie (1) es für mich!

- 1 — Wieviel Geld haben Sie?
 2 — Ich habe nur sieben Mark.

tôôn zee es für mich. — 1 veefeel gelt hahbën zee? — 2 -- nôör zeebën mark (sound the "r").

- 4 He is (a) tailor, and competition is very strong (*big*). —
 5 How many tailors are there here? — 6 I believe there are five or six. — 7 That is too much for a small town. — 8 You are right (*You have right*). — 9 What are you doing tonight? (*what do you today night?*) — 10 Nothing, I am too tired.



(2) *Wie viele* is the exact translation of how many. Much : *viel*; many : *viele*. *Schneider* has the same form in the singular and in the plural. Plurals are made in a number of ways, as we shall see later.

(3) Remember the expression *es gibt* meaning there is or there are, and *gibt es?* is there? or are there?

(4) *Nichts* means nothing. *Nicht* : not.



EXERCISE. — 1 You have no luck. — 2 She is very lucky (*has much luck*). — 3 My wife is always right. — 4 That won't do (*work*). — 5 We do nothing. — 6 He does what he likes. — 7 What is there here? — 8 What is the name of this gentleman? (*How calls this gentleman?*) — 9 We know nothing. — 10 Where is your friend today?

DO IT FOR ME!

- 1 How much money have you? — 2 I have only seven marks.



NOTES. — (1) The pronoun must be added in the imperative : *tun Sie es* : do it. *Tun wir es* : let us do it.