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Preface

Building a broad vocabulary in a second language is an important part of language learning. Th e richer your vocabulary is, the more skilled you become in speaking and writing your new language. Learning German is certainly no exception to this idea.

But vocabulary development and enrichment do not entail merely the memorization of word lists. Since most people gain more from studying phrases and sentences that illustrate the specifi c use of a word, this book provides examples that place new words in a practical context. Moreover, each word list is usually composed of items that can be "plugged into" a useful pattern sentence that is provided. For example, the nouns *shirt*, *blouse*, *pants*, and *skirt* are useful words to know. But just memorizing that list is not as useful as applying the words to practical sentences:

Tom hates ironing *cotton shirts*.
Mary hates ironing *silk blouses*.
I hate ironing *pants*.

Do you hate ironing *pleated skirts*?

Although grammar is not stressed in this book, on occasion a brief grammatical explanation is given to describe more precisely how a particular word or phrase should be used: for example, how Germans say *to like*.

As much as possible, words are illustrated in a form that shows a link or commonality among the provided words. Also, the chapters describe words that combine with others to form new words or that are derived from a base word. Th is is a signifi cant concept in German, which uses many types of words as prefi xes for new words:

die Sprache	*language*
die Sprachenschule	*language school*
ihre englischen Sprachkenntnisse	*her knowledge of English*
die Sprachlehre	*grammar book*
sprachlich	*linguistic*

Th ere are twenty chapters on a variety of traditional and contemporary topics. Each one is a building block for your new German vocabulary storehouse. In each chapter are exercises that help bring your new vocabulary to life. Th e questions not only are general ones that anyone can answer but also involve your personal experience. In either case, you have the opportunity to put your new words to practical use.

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At the end of each chapter are writing exercises that give you even more practice with the new material. If new verbs are involved, you are asked to manipulate the new verbs in various tenses. Other exercises ask you to provide an appropriate completion for a sentence. Finally, you are given a list of multiple-choice exercises that help you reinforce your new vocabulary. An answer key is located at the end of the book.

Acknowledgment

With much gratitude to Stefan Feyen for all his help and suggestions.

Alles Gute!

Family and friends

Die Familie

Th e German extended family consists of a variety of people, both young and old, just like any other family. Naturally, the basic family unit is made up of parents and their children. But beyond that small circle is a large group of relatives who aff ect family life to some degree: the extended family. Let's look at the German vocabulary that describes a typical family. First, we'll meet the oldest members of the family:

die Urgroßeltern *great-grandparents* der Urgroßvater *great-grandfather* die Urgroßmutter *great-grandmother* die Großeltern *grandparents* der Großvater *grandfather* die Großmutter *grandmother* der Schwiegervater *father-in-law* die Schwiegermutter *mother-in-law* der Senior *senior citizen (male)* die Seniorin *senior citizen (female)*

Sometimes the grandparents are called by more aff ectionate names:

der Opa *grandpa* die Oma *grandma*

Th e word **groß** is also used as a prefi x for other members of the family who are more than a generation apart:

der Großonkel *great-uncle* die Großtante *great-aunt* der Großneff e *great-nephew* die Großnichte *great-niece* der Großenkel *great-grandson* die Großenkelin *great-granddaughter*

Parents and their children are the hub of family life. Th ey each have a specifi c name:

die Eltern *parents* der Vater *father* die Mutter *mother*

Just like the grandparents, sometimes the parents are called by more aff ectionate names:

der Vati	*daddy*
die Mutti	*mommy*
der Papa	*dad*
die Mama	*mom*

Th e children have diff erent names depending on their relationship to other members of the family:

das Kind	*child*
das Baby	*baby*
der Sohn	*son*
die Tochter	*daughter*
die Geschwister	*brothers and sisters, siblings*
der Bruder	*brother*
die Schwester	*sister*
der Schwiegersohn	*son-in-law*
die Schwiegertochter	*daughter-in-law*
der Enkel	*grandson*
die Enkelin	*granddaughter*

Th e word **Gebrüder** is a collective noun meaning *brothers*. It is no longer used to talk about a group of brothers in general. But it still functions in company names:

Die Gebrüder Keller	*Th e Keller Brothers*

When two people combine their families into one, the word **Stief** is used as a prefi x:

der Stiefvater	*stepfather*
die Stiefmutter	*stepmother*
die Stiefk inder	*stepchildren*
der Stiefsohn	*stepson*
die Stieft ochter	*stepdaughter*
die Stiefgeschwister	*stepbrothers and sisters*
der Stiefb ruder	*stepbrother*
die Stiefschwester	*stepsister*

Th e families of the brothers and sisters of one's parents make up another segment of the family structure:

die Verwandten	*relatives*
der Onkel	*uncle*
die Tante	*aunt*
der Schwager	*brother-in-law*
die Schwägerin	*sister-in-law*
der Neff e	*nephew*

Answer the following questions, based on your family if possible. Sample answers are provided in the answer key.

die Nichte	*niece*
der Vetter, der Cousin	*cousin (male)*
die Kusine, die Cousine	*cousin (female)*

1. Wer ist neunundachtzig Jahre alt? —————————————————————

2. Wie ist der Mann Ihrer Tante mit Ihnen verwandt? —————————————

3. Wer sind Ihre Geschwister? ————————————————————————

4. Wie ist die Tochter Ihrer Stiefmutter mit Ihnen verwandt? —————————

——

5. Welche von Ihren Verwandten wohnen weit weg von Ihnen? ————————

——

Let's look at how these family names can be used in some sentences:

Kennen Sie meinen Großvater?	*Do you know my grandfather?*
Kennen Sie meine Mutter?	*Do you know my mother?*
Kennen Sie meinen Schwager?	*Do you know my brother-in-law?*
Kennen Sie meine Nichte?	*Do you know my niece?*
Seine Eltern wohnen jetzt in Berlin.	*His parents live in Berlin now.*
Seine Geschwister wohnen jetzt in Berlin.	*His siblings live in Berlin now.*
Sein Onkel wohnt jetzt in Berlin.	*His uncle lives in Berlin now.*
Seine Schwester wohnt jetzt in Berlin.	*His sister lives in Berlin now.*
Wie alt ist ihr Sohn?	*How old is her son?*
Wie alt sind ihre Kinder?	*How old are her children?*
Wie alt ist ihr Neff e?	*How old is her nephew?*
Wie alt ist ihre Schwägerin?	*How old is her sister-in-law?*

A variety of adjectives can be used to describe family members. Here are several useful antonyms:

jung	*young*
alt	*old*
schön *or* hübsch	*pretty, nice* or *handsome, beautiful*
hässlich	*ugly*
groß	*big*
klein	*little*
dumm	*stupid*
klug	*smart*

Put an X in the blanks where an adjective and a person used together make sense.

	Vater	Tochter	Baby	Großmutter	Urgroßvater
gesund			*healthy, well*		
krank			*sick*		

Th e adjectives for *young* and *old* are oft en used in the comparative or superlative to show the relationship of age between siblings or relatives:

mein jüngerer Bruder   *my younger brother* meine jüngste Schwester   *my youngest sister* ihr älterer Onkel   *her older uncle* ihre älteste Tante   *her oldest aunt*

1. alt   ———

2. am ältesten   ———

3. jung   ———

4. am jüngsten   ———

5. klein   ———

Let's look at how the adjectives can be used in some sentences:

Ist sein Bruder dumm oder klug?	*Is his brother stupid or smart?*
Ist sein Bruder groß oder klein?	*Is his brother big or little?*
Ist sein Bruder gesund oder krank?	*Is his brother healthy or sick?*
Ist sein Bruder jung oder alt?	*Is his brother young or old?*
Meine Nichte war sehr schön.	*My niece was very pretty.*
Meine Nichte war sehr jung.	*My niece was very young.*
Meine Nichte war sehr hübsch.	*My niece was very beautiful.*
Meine Nichte war sehr krank.	*My niece was very sick.*
Seine älteste Schwester arbeitet in Bonn.	*His oldest sister works in Bonn.*
Seine jüngere Schwester arbeitet in Bonn.	*His younger sister works in Bonn.*
Seine kluge Schwester arbeitet in Bonn.	*His smart sister works in Bonn.*
Seine schöne Schwester arbeitet in Bonn.	*His pretty sister works in Bonn.*

Answer the following questions, based on your family if possible. Sample answers are provided in the answer key.

1. Wie sieht Ihre Großmutter aus? ———————————————————————

2. Wo arbeitet Ihr Vater? ——————————————————————————

3. Wer in Ihrer Familie ist krank geworden? ————————————————————

4. Wer ist älter? Ihr Vater oder Ihre Mutter? ————————————————————

Die Freunde

Friends are an important part of one's life. People share signifi cant moments with friends and rely on friends in times of diffi culty. But there are diff erent kinds of friends and diff erent levels of friendship. Th ey can be very close to you, or they can be just acquaintances. German has as many words for these various kinds of friends as English does.

Remember that German has three pronouns that stand for *you*. Th ey are **du, ihr**, and **Sie**. Use **du** with family members, children, and close friends, as well as in informal situations. **Ihr** is the plural of **du**. Use **Sie** in formal situations and with adults who are strangers to you. Don't forget that **Sie** is used both with a single person and with two or more persons in a formal situation. Th ese pronouns are the clue that German diff erentiates close friendships and new acquaintances.

If you have just met someone, you will probably use the pronoun **Sie** with that person. Th ere is a verb to describe this: **siezen** (*to address someone with Sie*). Although in English you might refer to a person you met recently as *a friend*, that would not be the case in German. **Freund** is not the appropriate word for someone you just met. Use these words instead:

> der Bekannte   *acquaintance (male)* die Bekannte
> *acquaintance (female)*

Use these words with close or longtime friends:

> der Freund   *friend (male)* die Freundin   *friend (female)*

Th e word **Bekannte** comes from a past participle (of the verb **bekennen**), which like other participles can be used as an adjective. Th e adjective form is then used as a noun. But because it is an adjective, the infl uence of **ein** words and **der** words on adjective endings becomes important in its noun usage. Compare the following declensions, one with an **ein** word and one with a **der** word, especially noting the nominative case:

NOMINATIVE	ein Bekannter	der Bekannte
ACCUSATIVE	einen Bekannten	den Bekannten
DATIVE	einem Bekannten	dem Bekannten
GENITIVE	eines Bekannten	des Bekannten

When these diff erent forms for the word *friend* and *acquaintance* are used in sentences, Germans immediately understand what kind of relationship exists between the parties:

Das ist ein Bekannter von mir.   *Th at's a friend (new acquaintance) of mine.*

It is understood that the speaker probably just met this person or still uses the pronoun **Sie** when speaking to the person. But in the following sentence, the person mentioned clearly is a close friend because the noun **Freund** is used:

Das ist ein Freund von mir.   *Th at's a friend of mine.*

Th e word **Freund** indicates that the relationship between the speaker and the *friend* is close and that they probably use the pronoun **du** when addressing one another. Th e verb used in such a relationship is **duzen** (*to address someone with* **du**). Compare the following sentences:

Mein Chef und ich siezen einander.   *My boss and I address each other with **Sie**.*

Gudrun und ich duzen einander seit drei Jahren.   *Gudrun and I have been addressing each other with **du** for three years.*

When you specifi cally mean that your friend is the person you are dating or is the romantic interest in your life, you also use **Freund** and **Freundin**:

Mein Freund hat einen neuen Wagen gekauft .   *My boyfriend bought a new car.*

Wohnt deine Freundin noch in Oldenburg?   *Does your girlfriend still live in Oldenburg?*

Let's take a look at a series of words that describe a variety of friends and acquaintances:

MALE	FEMALE	
der Nachbar	die Nachbarin	*neighbor*
der Kollege	die Kollegin	*colleague, coworker*
der Klassenkamerad	die Klassenkameradin	*classmate*
der Mitarbeiter	die Mitarbeiterin	*associate, coworker*
der Mannschaft skamerad	die Mannschaft skameradin	*teammate*
der Genosse	die Genossin	*associate, party member*
der Wirt	die Wirtin	*landlord, landlady*
der Mieter	die Mieterin	*tenant*
der Mitbewohner	die Mitbewohnerin	*fellow lodger*
der Zimmergenosse	die Zimmergenossin	*roommate*

der Klubkamerad	die Klubkameradin	*fellow member of a club*
der Landsmann	die Landsmännin	*fellow countryman, compatriot*

Th e following nouns do not have separate forms for males and females:

das Mitglied	*member*
der Mitmensch	*fellow human being*

Put an X in the blanks that show what relationship you would have with the persons listed on the left. Would you say **du**, **ihr**, *or* **Sie** *to these persons?*

du   ihr   Sie

1. Tante und Onkel   ———

2. Nachbar   ———   ———   ———

3. Mieter   ———   ———   ———

4. Wirtin   ———

5. Zimmergenosse   ———

6. Neffe   ———   ———   ———

7. Freundin   ———   ———   ———

8. Chef und Klubkamerad   ———   ———   ———

9. Sohn   ———

Answer the following questions, based on your family if possible. Sample answers are provided in the answer key.

1. Wie heißt Ihr bester Freund? ————————————————————

2. Wie alt ist Ihre Wirtin? ————————————————————————

3. In welchem Klub sind Sie Mitglied? ——————————————————

4. In welcher Stadt wohnt Ihr Chef? ——————————————————

Now let's look at a series of sentences that use some of these new nouns together with the following adjectives:

neu	*new*
schlecht	*bad*
gut	*good*
glücklich	*happy, lucky*
traurig	*sad*
faul	*lazy*
fl eißig	*hardworking*
Haben Sie unsere neuen Mitglieder kennen gelernt?	*Did you meet our new members?*
Haben Sie unseren neuen Mitbewohner kennen gelernt?	*Did you meet our new fellow lodger?*
Haben Sie unsere neue Wirtin kennen gelernt?	*Did you meet our new landlady?*
Haben Sie unseren neuen Mannschaft s-kameraden kennen gelernt?	*Did you meet our new team member?*
Ihre neue Klassenkameradin ist sehr faul.	*Th eir new classmate is very lazy.*
Ihr neuer Mieter ist sehr faul.	*Th eir new tenant is very lazy.*
Ihre neuen Kollegen sind sehr faul.	*Th eir new colleagues are very lazy.*
Ihr neuer Nachbar ist sehr faul.	*Th eir new neighbor is very lazy.*
Mein Klassenkamerad ist nicht faul, sondern fl eißig.	*My classmate isn't lazy but hardworking.*
Mein Klassenkamerad ist nicht traurig, sondern glücklich.	*My classmate isn't sad but happy.*
Mein Klassenkamerad ist nicht schlecht, sondern gut.	*My classmate isn't bad but good.*

Fill in each blank with the name of the appropriate relative.

EXAMPLE   Der Vater meines Bruder ist mein *Vater* .

1. Mein Bruder und meine Schwester sind meine _____
    _____.

2. Die Mutter meiner Mutter ist meine _____.

3. Der Sohn meines Onkels ist meine _____.

4. Die Tochter meines Onkels ist meine
        .

                                    _____

5. Die Mutter meines Großvaters ist meine _____
    _____.

6. Meine Schwester ist die _____ meiner
    Eltern.

7. Der Bruder meiner Frau ist mein _____.

8. Der Vater meines Mannes ist mein _____.

9. Die Tochter meines Mannes und seiner ersten Frau ist meine _____
    _____.

10. Die Schwester meines Vaters ist meine _____
    _____.

11. Die Tochter meines Sohnes ist meine _____
    _____.

12. Der Bruder meiner Mutter ist mein _____
    _____.

13. Die Schwester meines Vetters ist meine _____
    _____.

14. Die Mutter meines Mannes ist meine _____
    _____.

15. Der Sohn meiner Tante ist mein _____.

    _____