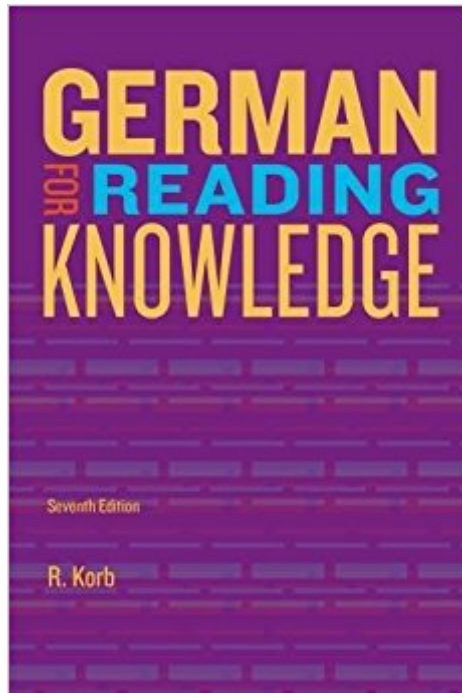




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German For Reading Knowledge (World Languages)



Synopsis

Learn to apply basic German grammar and vocabulary to reading and translating progressively complex texts with the seventh edition of JANNACH'S GERMAN FOR READING KNOWLEDGE. Recognized as the leader in teaching reading skills, this text provides the tools you need to read specialized literature in your field. The Book Companion Website contains the readings that appear in each chapter, plus new comprehension questions and activities about the readings that are designed to let you practice specific reading skills.

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Richard Alan Korb received his Ph.D. in Germanic Literature from the University of Pittsburgh in 1988. He has been teaching at Columbia University in New York City since 1994. As senior lecturer and German language program director, he specializes in pedagogy and teacher training, offering elementary, intermediate, and advanced German courses for undergraduates.

For a 100+ dollar book you would expect that there would not be as many errors. I had the third and

sixth edition lying around as well, but had to have the 7th for a class. The sixth edition did not have as many errors as the 7th. Some of the mistakes will lead students seriously astray if not pointed out, and are not simple typos. If you have any say, get the sixth edition.

I had to buy this book for a summer German course at graduate school. I realise that there don't seem to be other good alternatives. But I gave this book 2 stars regardless as any higher a rating than this is not warranted for the following reasons:- It is far too expensive. This has been said by most of the reviews, and especially having seen how thin the publisher can make a 326 page paperback shows that they aren't putting the funds raised from this book towards decent weight paper.- Related to this is the content. It's clear enough most of the time (although as another reviewer said, he does mix up former/latter at one point). It's not inspiring, it doesn't really help me get inside the language. Again, this means that they shouldn't be charging as much as they are.- The vocab and exercises seem to be something of an afterthought to the editors. Several vocab words are given in multiple chapters (although you might like this as it means less words to learn), which really should be edited out. Chapter 9 is particularly bad in this regard.- The glosses provided in the exercise sections are generally ok, but at times misleading. What's worse is that terms that you would never guess in a million years don't have a footnote gloss, while others that have been in vocab lists in earlier chapters do (e.g. q.7 on p.56, which has a footnote gloss for a word already given in a vocab list on p.20). I realise that one could easily look up a dictionary, but then why give some glosses?- The exercises also throw in grammatical constructions before they are formally introduced in the grammar. In very early chapters, it's hard to avoid this, but it happens far too frequently. (EDIT: there are also mistakes in the exercises, such as turning Louis Braille into a woman by adding an 'e' to the end of his first name on p. 102. Not a huge problem for learning German...but again, for the price of the book, why are there such simple errors?) If I could give 1 star to the publisher, I would. Tinkering slightly with the content of a book and rereleasing every 5 or so years as a new edition is profiteering at its worst. Finally, a note on the kindle edition, which I bought. The kindle edition page for this book does have a drop down list of compatible devices near the top, so you've only got yourself to blame if you don't check that. The reason that it doesn't work on every device (the most prevalent being older kindles and Windows 8 in metro mode) is that it isn't a text html file like most kindle books. Rather, it's effectively a PDF, which preserves the layout of each page (making following in class easier), but means that not all kindle devices can handle this.

One can learn grammar from this book. However, the exercises--particularly the translations at the

end of each chapter--often use grammar and vocabulary that have not yet been covered. This turns the exercises into a needless, disheartening, frustrating struggle. There has to be a better way.

German for Reading Knowledge is geared for that: learning to read German. This book is not focused on conversational German, but rather for those (generally graduate students preparing for language exams) who only need to acquire the ability to read German. From my own experience, we are currently using this book within a classroom setting, but many will need a resource to study the language independently. This book is arranged into twenty-five chapters (Kapitel) and consists of 318 pages. Each chapter contains the grammatical lesson, vocabulary, practice sentences (the answers are available on the website), and a paragraph or more of German text for translation. The lessons begin with the nominative case and sein ("to be") conjugations for present and passive, then the subsequent chapters build upon the grammar. The readings, from chapter 1, are complex and challenge the student. These readings start the student with reading German, which is the end goal. The Appendices include some review on the case system, verbs (though a review of conjugations would have been nice here), advice on purchasing a dictionary, German scripts, and vocabulary. There are several concerns with this text, though. Firstly, while there is a vocabulary list in each chapter, it does not include all of the vocabulary presented in the chapter. There is a considerable amount of vocabulary throughout the chapter that is not included in the list, and it would have been nice if the chapter list included all of the presented vocabulary. Additionally, even starting in the first chapter, the sentences and readings contain vocabulary which is neither in the vocabulary list nor in the vocabulary in the back of the book (e.g. 'zu' is used, with two different meanings, in the first reading), requiring a dictionary from the start. Secondly, the sentences and readings include grammatical information that is not presented until later lessons. One cannot be expected to translate a sentence when the necessary grammar is not taught until a later lesson. Thirdly, the book has errors. In my case, there is a professor to correct the errors (ranging from incorrect information to including references to sentences included in earlier editions but absent from the seventh). Fourthly, and this is by far the greatest concern: This book is incredibly overpriced. Right now, it is selling for \$115 on . This is a small paperback book and I can find *no* justification for the exorbitant price, especially considering the problems with the book. I have bought expensive academic books and monographs in the past, but those were typically hardcover books and of incredible quality. Even for an academic textbook, this book is not worth the price. If it was offered for under \$40, and was used in a classroom setting with an instructor to help make up for the problems/deficiencies of the text, I would recommend it (with prejudice). At this price,

however, and with the concerns mentioned above, I cannot recommend this book.

It is written in a clear, easy to understand style, but from the very start in Kapitel 1 it often puts in the exercises grammar that has not been covered. As someone with no previous background in German, this is very frustrating because I am encountering grammatical forms/expressions that I have no idea how to handle or exactly where to look up in book. The second major problem is the excessive price. Currently at \$147 for new, about \$60 for used, and \$45 for the e-textbook, this very short grammar is at least 3 to 4 times more expensive than the more substantial textbooks of other languages I have studied, ancient and modern.

Might be OK - although it seems pretty thin on explanations and exercises. BUT, too GD expensive. Expensive at HALF the price....

For the love of Pete, why is there a Kindle version of this book being offered? I gave this a good faith effort, thinking that perhaps the issues were addressed by now, and tried in on all my devices. It doesn't work on any, including Kindle Cloud reader. All versions and rentals are also much cheaper on the publisher's website, so...

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