

# **Description of Level and Content for *Foreign Language Instruction - German - Levels 1-4***

## **Vocabulary and Grammar Practice Exercises – German Level 1-4**

The materials in these levels deal only with the written aspects of the foreign language and then only with discrete vocabulary and grammar elements. The entire four-level sequence of practice programs for German currently offers over 11750 individual practice items in over 270 separate data programs or data content files. French and Spanish first level vocabulary and grammar java practice programs are also online.

## **Purpose of the Materials – Level 1**

The materials in this first level of computer programs for foreign language instruction will aid the student to develop a strong vocabulary in German and will also provide drill and review of certain grammatical forms and structures which are normally encountered in first level or first year of language instruction. The purpose of the materials is to provide the practice and review needed by all students to master spelling and use of grammar forms of this critical core curriculum material. The students who are working with the computer materials can all be working on different topics in areas that they need or at different levels in the curriculum. It is thus possible to more easily provide for the individual needs of diverse students.

The Foreign Language Instruction materials are also intended to be used as an aid to the teacher to help relieve the teacher of the necessity of giving and correcting written review assignments and short quizzes on vocabulary items or on individual grammar items through the use of the Test Mode. The testing and drill of discrete items is necessary and can be turned over to the computer.

A third purpose is that of providing material for remedial, review or advanced study. For students who have not studied the foreign language for some time, for students who must continually review in order to maintain their knowledge of the language, or even for those students who need more practice than that provided in the classroom, the computer program provides the ideal method for review. These materials also allow the teacher to provide special supplemental assignments for those few outstanding language students who are otherwise sometimes neglected and become bored. By creating new data programs with the authoring system, the teacher can easily develop additional material to fit the needs of all the students (not currently implemented in the online materials).

## **Content of the Level 1 Materials**

The first twenty data programs contain a list of about 700 vocabulary items that are used in the German 1 materials. These words were originally selected from J. Alan Pfeffer's

*Basic (Spoken) German Word List - Grundstufe.* They were then compared with several German textbooks and the final list was composed of those words which appeared in more than one of the texts. This final list was compared to the list of words presented in the Council of Europe materials *Kontaktschwell - Deutsch als Fremdsprache* (published by Langenscheidt). Eighty-three percent of the words in the list presented here are recommended for active use and another eight percent are contained in the 'Kontaktschwelle' list as useful words. These words represent a core vocabulary and are valuable for the student to learn no matter what text material is used. The following sixty-nine grammar data programs containing 2263 individual items cover all the grammar elements normally presented in the first year of instruction at the high school level and include lessons on regular verbs, stem changing verbs, modal verbs, noun-pronoun replacement, possessive adjectives; an excellent series of programs on learning to discriminate among subject, direct object, and predicate nominative forms with articles, possessive adjectives and pronouns; lessons on command forms, verbs with stems ending in an -s or -t sound, word order practice for time/place phrases and demonstrative adjectives. The grammar exercises of the German 1 materials are coordinated with the vocabulary units so that, for example, an exercise which lists as a prerequisite Vocabulary Lesson 3 would use only vocabulary up through that lesson. Even though the topics are sequenced in the most appropriate order for learning, the user may access them in any order. Both the choice of topic and the order of presentation have been determined as a result of the author's extensive experience in the high school classroom.

Carefully constructed first level French and Spanish online practice materials are also available through the java practice exercises.

Since these materials do not contain grammatical explanations, it is expected that the students will have already worked through the online materials which contain grammatical explanations and a few written practice exercises with answers prior to their practice with this topic with the online materials. The grammatical topics have been selected to provide practice with grammatical structures and forms, which provide particular difficulty for American students. Even if the students have not studied the prerequisite vocabulary lessons for a specific grammatical exercise, they can often still do many of the items in the exercise since they will have learned many of the vocabulary items through other materials. Although they can still profit from the drill of the grammatical items without the background work with the vocabulary items, students can also be encouraged to work with the vocabulary lessons as supplemental activities and in this case they would profit from an expanded vocabulary. [See separate 'German Level 1 course overview' on website]

## **Purpose of the Materials – Level 2**

The online Level 2 German materials contain the German 2 data programs and also the learning program, Vocabulary and Grammar Drills, and the Test Mode. These computer

materials represent a distillation of over forty years of teaching experience of the author of which twenty-two were with computers in the author's classroom and twelve have been after retiring through online instruction and tutoring. I believe these materials are the most complete set of online computer practice exercises available for the second year of instruction at Level 2. The materials are comprised of a learning program with three practice options: a) a multiple choice option, b) a spell-out-the-answer option with a hint routine if errors are made, and c) an option for the vocabulary lessons which allows the user to type just the article 'the' for each noun shown. The materials also contain a sequentially organized and carefully structured series of practice exercises or data programs. These exercises, produced by a professional and practicing teacher, are designed to practice new vocabulary and grammar elements in small controlled steps, and to continually extend the knowledge of the language learner.

## **Content of the Level 2 Materials**

The practice exercises for Level 2 of the Foreign Language Instruction materials presented in these computer materials are comprised of twenty lessons containing the 840 frequency-based words and words for chapters in the suggested reader. Additionally, fifty other programs with 1945 individual items provide practice in all of the major grammar concepts covered in the online Level 2 syllabus and include the following topics: 'dass' clauses and indirect speech with 'dass', weak and strong verb forms in the conversational past tense (Perfekt), 'wenn' clauses, several practice exercises with nominative, accusative, and dative forms, dative verbs, dative prepositions, subjunctive forms for five verbs, 'in order to' constructions, weak adjective endings for 'ein', and preterite forms for strong and weak verbs. [See separate 'German Level 2 course overview']

## **Purpose of the Materials – Level 3**

The online Level 3 German materials contain the learning program, Vocabulary and Grammar Drills, the Test Mode, and the German 3 data programs. The German 3 computer materials have been developed by a professional teacher with over forty years of teaching experience of which twenty-two were with computers in the author's classroom and twelve more have been through online instruction and tutoring. I believe these materials are the most complete set of online computer practice exercises available for the third year of instruction at the high school level. The materials are comprised of a learning program with three practice options: a) a multiple choice option, b) a spell-out-the-answer option with a hint routine if errors are made, and c) an option for the vocabulary lessons which allows the user to type just the article 'the' for each noun shown. The German 3 data programs are comprised of a sequentially organized and carefully structured series of practice exercises that are coordinated with the frequency-based vocabulary lessons. These exercises are designed to practice new vocabulary and grammar elements in small controlled steps, and to continually extend the knowledge of the language learner. At the third level the students are expected to have mastered material in the first and second levels and should be encouraged to review the online computer materials at Level 1 and 2 for those topics with which they are having problems. [In practice the author would create an individualized

review assignment for each student based on the results of a pretest covering the preceding year's work that would be given at the start of the school year.]

### **Content of the Level 3 Materials**

The practice exercises for Level 3 of the Foreign Language Instruction materials presented in these online computer materials are comprised of twenty lessons containing the 750 frequency-based words. Additionally, forty other programs with 1710 individual items provide practice in all of the major grammar concepts covered in the ten online Level 3 lessons and include the following topics: genitive case, future and past perfect verb forms, inseparable prefix verbs, several types of passive constructions, practice with dative, accusative and dative/accusative prepositions, reflexive verbs, use of 'zu' with infinitives, weak or second adjective endings, relative pronouns, subordinate and coordinate conjunctions, 'da'- and 'wo'- constructions, and forms of 'when'.

This ten-lesson structure corresponds well with the ten credits awarded for successful completion of the year-long class and allows for partial credit to be given to some students who may not complete a full year's program in one year or for additional credit to be awarded to students who complete more than a year's worth of work in one year.

### **Purpose of the Materials – Level 4**

The online Level 4 German materials contain the learning program, Vocabulary and Grammar Drills, the Test Mode, and the German 4 data programs. These computer materials represent a distillation of over forty years of teaching experience of the author of which twenty-two were with computers in the author's classroom and twelve have been through online instruction and tutoring. The Vocabulary and Grammar Drills learning program provides three practice options: a) a multiple choice option, b) a spell-out-the-answer option with a hint routine if errors are made, and c) an option available only with vocabulary lessons which allows the user to type just the article 'the' for each noun shown. The German 4 online materials are designed to offer further exacting practice with new vocabulary and to provide additional opportunities for students to expand their knowledge of advanced grammar concepts. These programs should be seen as sources of new content for two of the 10 tracks that I offered to students in my program who had completed the first three levels of instruction [see online 'German Courses – past and present' and then 'German Level 4 course overview']. Since students at this level are expected to design their own learning plan, there are no prepared lesson syllabi for work at this level.

### **Content of the Level 4 Materials**

The practice exercises for Level 4 of the Foreign Language Instruction materials presented in these online computer materials are comprised of forty vocabulary lessons including to lessons containing 500+ frequency-based words. This set of 10 vocabulary

lessons represent the final segment of the set of frequency-based words that have been presented in Levels 1-3 to provide the foundation vocabulary for these levels. Additionally, fourteen other data programs provide practice in major grammar concepts. In total, there are currently 3680 individual practice items of vocabulary and grammar for the Level 4 online computer programs.

### **Further Resources**

A more detailed description of the author's instructional program can be viewed via the Internet on the author's website under 'German Courses - past and present':

web address: <http://99.23.170.17/~ramorrey/>

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