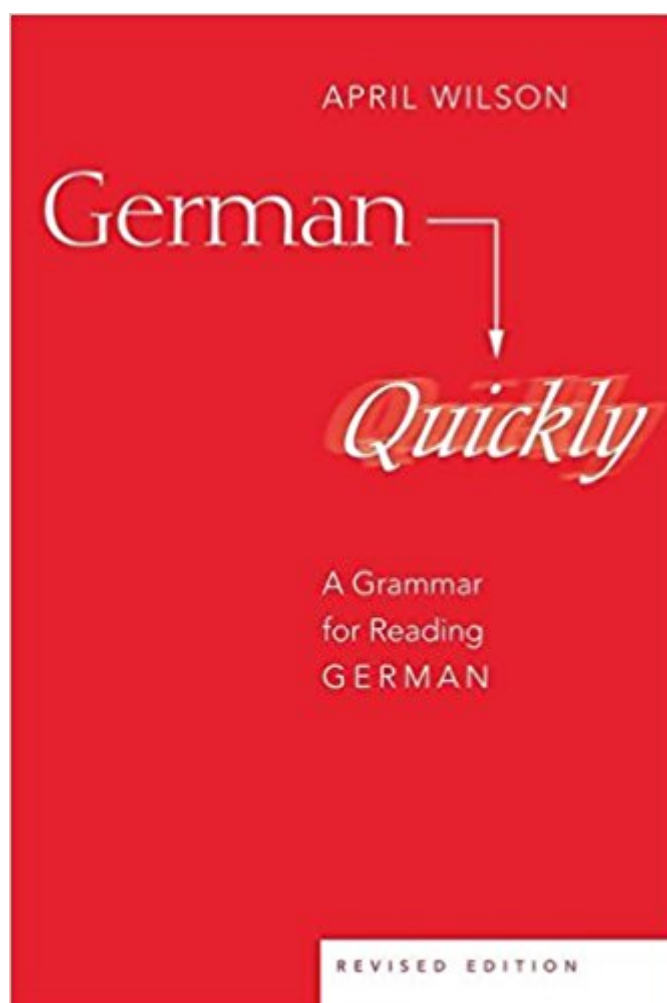




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German Quickly: A Grammar For Reading German (American University Studies)



Synopsis

German Quickly: A Grammar for Reading German is a thorough, straightforward textbook with a sense of fun. It teaches the fundamentals for reading German literary and scholarly texts of all levels of difficulty. It can be used as an introductory text for scholars with no background in German, or it can serve as a reference text for students wishing to review German. The grammar explanations are detailed and clear, addressing common problems students encounter while learning to read German. This book includes thought-provoking and entertaining reading selections consisting mainly of aphorisms and proverbs. There are also twelve appendices, including a summary of German grammar, descriptions of German dictionaries, a partial answer key, strategies for learning German, and a humanities vocabulary section of about 3,800 words.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“April Wilson is to be congratulated for her clear, logical and concise presentations of German grammar to which the proverbs add much life and human insight. She has provided the profession with a superb pedagogical tool, and anybody studying German for reading knowledge or simply reviewing German grammar should be thankful that this book exists.” (Wolfgang Mieder, University of Vermont) “Based on April Wilson’s very popular reading course for students in the University of Chicago community, German Quickly is an absolute delight. It is witty, lively and exciting. The on-going adventures of Fräulein Meier and the

mailman entice readers from one lesson to the next, and having them translate extracts from Nietzsche, Goethe, Buber and other literary heavyweights instills a definite sense of accomplishment as they progress. Explanations of the grammar combine wonderful clarity with a sympathetic ear to the beginner's difficulties. This newly revised edition is to be warmly welcomed. (Jonardon Ganeri, University of Liverpool)

Text: English, German --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

As an update for everyone, I just received the newest version of German Quickly (copyright 2015). Even though it came with an Errata sheet, I checked and it looks like all of the mistakes on the sheet have been corrected in the actual book. Therefore, hopefully, there shouldn't be anymore major typos and mistakes in the book. The only one I've found so far is on page xix in the pronunciation guide: "jung is pronounced young, and indeed does mean young." Jung is not pronounced like young but more like yoong (see [...] for the correct pronunciation). However, this is a minor mistake and the rest that I've looked at seems correct. If I find anymore I will update this review. *****UPDATE 07/31/16***** Found an error that appeared throughout the book. The words infiniti[v]e, infiniti[v]es, infiniti[v]al, reflexi[v]e, prefi[x]es, prefi[x]ed, confi[r]med, and definitio[n] appear frequently missing the respective letters in brackets. For example, instead of infinitive is "infiniti e." I only found this type of error in the bolded text, primarily in section titles. It is not a major problem in terms of the book's clarity or effectiveness; it's simply a nuisance, especially since an error so frequent as this should have been caught by the editor during the first reading. Otherwise, aside from an occasional misspelled word or incorrectly italicized sentence, all the major problems that other reviewers have mentioned seem to have been corrected.

My purpose is specifically to compare this product with Korb/Jannach German for Reading Knowledge, 4th edition. I first purchased German Quickly and read it through twice. I found the explanations clear and thorough and the exercises and reading selections enjoyable. Then I started reading academic (Biblical Studies) German and found that my vocabulary was insufficient. Several months later I am nearly finished reviewing German for Reading Knowledge, 4th edition. I find that it provides many of the key abbreviations and scholarly words that I had teach myself over the last few months. Overall, I am very happy with the way this worked out. Wilson's text is more user-friendly if you are teaching yourself (because it spells out grammatical points a little more and has easier practice), but the vocabulary and reading selections will not prepare you as thoroughly

for academic German. If you are teaching yourself and have a little extra time, why not get Wilson first and then use Jannach as a review/supplement? There's no question that you will learn the language better by using both books than by using only one, whichever it is. There are two primary reasons that Wilson is easier. First, in the reading practice she gives you difficult vocabulary in parentheses in the text, while Jannach gives it in footnotes. Second, Most of Wilson's sample sentences and readings deal with the humanities, including many German proverbs and stories. The sentences and readings from Jannach cover a wider range of topics, and in general seem more scholarly. Jannach is also, therefore, a little more boring in my opinion. I can understand why most teachers prefer Jannach - because the reading selections and vocabulary are better, and they can make up for the slightly-less thorough grammatical explanations by expanding on them in class. Plus, there are a handful of serious typos in Wilson which are corrected on an insert rather than a new printing of the book. If you purchase Wilson, make sure you add the corrections as you go along so you don't end up puzzling over a typo for a half-hour like I did.

I bought this book to study German on my own time. Speaking and writing German are not covered in the book, but I highly recommend this to anyone who wants to learn to read German. All of the major grammatical structures are presented in a clear and straightforward manner and there is a very comprehensive and handy grammar summary in an appendix. This is an enjoyable, practical text. What really gives this book its charm, however, are the examples and practice translations. The main themes are German proverbs, classical German literature, and the running story of Fräulein Meier and her local mailman. These take the form of both practice sentences that illustrate the grammatical points at hand and longer reading passages. All vocabulary is defined and these reading exercises not only take the drudgery out of practice, but make language learning an outright pleasure! I did not do the exercises at the end of the chapters, so I cannot speak to their effectiveness, but I appreciated that the exercises were there for those who wanted to do them.

If you are going to study theological German, this book is something you must have in your library. In fact, many in my circles use this as the textbook for learning theological German (along with a vocab list from other sources). It is a little dated in its format, but is extremely practical.

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