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German Is Fun: Book One



Synopsis

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Book Information

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Customer Reviews

German Is Fun: Book One

A+

Used for homeschool co-op.

good text,fast delivery.

Very basic, start from the beginning tutorial. Obviously geared toward American school children, but that is not too distracting for the adult learner.

It might be useful for a beginner who is working with a tutor. Five dollars would be a fair price.

I will not lie, at first I had some seriously mixed feelings about this book...I started taking Level 1 (Basic Level) German classes at my local German American Society, where the book they have been using for years was "Wie Geht's: An Introductory German Course by Dieter and Ingrid Sevin." I was really excited because this was also the German course that was being used by the university I was thinking of attending soon. I was very sad on the first night when they said they had decided to

switch to the German Is Fun program. But now after finishing the class, I am really glad they did. I have to agree with the teachers that this course was better written for beginning students of German than the "Wie Geht's" course. I am not saying this course is better, I am saying that I felt it was better written for absolute beginners like me who want to speak German but don't have the ability to sit down with a serious textbook like "Wie Geht's." My only real complaint about this book is that at first glance, you might think you wasted your money and bought something for a child! The choice of outer covering gave me the first impression of a large coloring book you might buy for your children at a supermarket. I won't lie, when I first saw it, I rolled my eyes and said..."They went from Wie Geht's to this???" But it didn't take long to see why they did. Like I said, this course is a very good course for beginners. It isn't too different from most of the German courses out there. It has 24 sections divided into themes such as the family and the school. It doesn't give you a huge list of words at the beginning or end of the section but rather introduces them slowly during the section. For instance, in the section about clothing, it opens up with some basic words for clothes like shirt, pants, and more with pictures to illustrate them, but as the section goes on more words are given to you through dialogues and activities. So you actually get a lot of new words for that section, but they were given to you gradually and you really don't even realize it. This is more of an activity/work book than a textbook. The book covers a theme, and then does a very good job covering grammar basics needed for effective German. I felt it did a better job than a textbook which typically lays out grammar rules at the beginning and then makes you try to remember those rules with some exercises at the end. This book engages the grammar with exercises right after introducing each grammar topic. Some people claim that this course doesn't cover the same amount of material as in a first year textbook...that's a lie. In fact, I have now taken a credited course and we covered that exact same material in another book...however, we did it at lightning speeds with little help from the book we used. I would recommend this book to any beginner honestly wanting a good starting foundation in German. With this book you will get a good beginning vocabulary and the ability to use it. I have heard there are recordings for this course to help those doing this on their own, but I have not been able to find them. German is one of those languages you really need a person there to say the words, so if you can get a native or fluent speaker to help you with this course...I think you will have the tools needed for a good German speaking future.

This book has been written in workbook format and includes all the main grammatical points I found in my district's first year German textbook. The themes are presented with a little more simplicity and, I believe, less confusion for the beginning 2nd language learner. I have used it as a

supplemental tool to reinforce targeted structures as well as for the many drawings that are beneficial to the more visually oriented students. As a textbook for tutoring a beginner in German one on one, it has been the primary book I have used to introduce them to a new language, again because of the concise presentation of the grammatical structures, the cultural highlights, and the relevant vocabulary that a beginner needs.

Typographical errors are especially frustrating in a language book, and there are several in this. (Even our teacher pointed out the errors -- it's not just me as a beginning student!) If you can get past that, the book is pleasing enough and has a simple and inviting interface.

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