

FREE MASTERING GERMAN VOCABULARY: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO TROUBLESOME WORDS PDF



Bruce Donaldson | 224 pages | 01 May 2004 | Taylor & Francis Ltd | 9780415261159 | English, German | London, United Kingdom

Mastering German vocabulary: a practical guide to troublesome words -

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Add to Wishlist. Sign in to Purchase Instantly. Temporarily Out of Stock Online Please check back later for updated availability. Overview How often have you looked up an English word in a German dictionary only to be confronted by a bewildering array of German equivalents?

Which is the correct word for the context in question? Thirty years' experience in teaching Germanic languages at tertiary level to English-speaking students have made the author acutely aware of this problem. Mastering German Vocabulary explains how to use over 2,000 common German words correctly, using example sentences in German with English translations.

In order to aid quick consultation, all German and English words are listed in separate indexes. The book is designed for all upper secondary and tertiary students of German and complements Routledge's grammar, dictionary and vocabulary building Mastering German Vocabulary: A Practical Guide to Troublesome Words.

It is a practical companion for anyone serious about perfecting their German. Product Details About the Author.

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Pages Page size x pts Year Fourth Edition provides a clear and readable account of the law of evidence, acknowledging the importance of arguments. No part of this book may be reprinted or reproduced or utilised in any form or by any electronic, Mastering German Vocabulary: A Practical Guide to Troublesome Words, or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publishers.

Bruce C. Includes bibliographical references and index. German language—Usage—Glossaries, vocabularies, etc. German language—Textbooks for foreign speakers—English. D66 And all categories of learner will often find themselves seriously let down by dictionaries as their only source of information on these matters.

The choice of words covered in this book is inevitably somewhat arbitrary, but it has been based on my own experiences of learning German over a period of forty years, and teaching it and Dutch over a period of thirty years, Dutch lexical difficulties often being similar to those encountered when learning German. I feel confident that this long experience has put me in good stead to recognise the common pitfalls and equipped me to explain them to the keen learner of the language who is continually faced, as was I, with a baffling myriad of detail in the dictionaries.

This book is not of course Mastering German Vocabulary: A Practical Guide to Troublesome Words in any way to replace a good dictionary e. Collins unabridged German-English, English-German dictionary but merely to supplement it. Enormous constraints of space apply in dictionaries, endeavouring as good ones do, to list every word in the language, and thus the degree to which they can devote space to elaboration of meanings is inevitably limited.

But not all words by any means need further elaboration. That is the function of the present book, i. I am confident that my choice will prove to be useful to the level of student at which it is aimed. It is not the intention of this book to deal with regional differences like Fleischer, Metzger, Schlachter where such terms are completely synonymous, i. At times Mastering German Vocabulary: A Practical Guide to Troublesome Words was difficult to decide whether a given problem was indeed one of vocabulary or more of grammar e.

What is more, feminising masculine agents is more a grammatical than a lexical issue e. The reader must be aware that it is not the intention of this book to deal with all the meanings of the German words given here, merely those that correspond to the English word under discussion. The German words in question are looked at entirely from an English perspective as this is exactly where the real problem lies with Mastering German Vocabulary: A Practical Guide to Troublesome Words words that I have chosen to explain in this book.

With greater exposure to the language one comes to appreciate more the broad field of meaning of words without compartmentalising their semantics in this way, but one needs to learn to walk before one learns to run and with that this book is intended to help. It will quickly strike the reader that more entries relate to verbs than to any other part of speech. This is in no mean measure the result of the nuances given to German verbs by the application of prefixes such as be- ver- er- and an-.

There may well be other derivatives, formed from other verbal prefixes, but if the resulting verbs do not translate the English key word under discussion, they are not included in the discussion. You will notice that some verbs are followed by lassen in brackets, e. This means that the verb, which is intransitive, can be made transitive by being used together with lassen, e.

Mastering German Vocabulary: A Practical Guide to Troublesome Words book does not attempt to be exhaustive in its explanations of the various ways to render certain English words in German.

To have done so would have rendered the book unwieldy and of limited use to the learner battling to get on top of the basics of German. What I offer here is a survival kit to get the learner through the most common vocabulary difficulties that are confronted when one first takes up the mammoth task of learning to speak German well. This is not to say that quite advanced learners Mastering German Vocabulary: A Practical Guide to Troublesome Words not benefit from this book, but there inevitably comes a point in the acquisition of German vocabulary where vi prescriptive works such as this must cut the learner loose to pick up the rest through exposure to the living language.

It is true that you can never have enough examples of how to use a given German word and yet a book such as this must by necessity limit the examples it provides the reader with. The reader should therefore find the following website invaluable if further examples are required.

Mastering German Vocabulary: A Practical Guide to Troublesome Words University of Leipzig has put a vast collection of vocabulary on the web

consisting of three million words illustrated in 15 million sample sentences under www. And finally a word on how to find what you are seeking Mastering German Vocabulary: A Practical Guide to Troublesome Words this book.

Although the contents are set out under English key words which are alphabetically ordered, many of the English titles contain multiple words, e. Acknowledgements First and foremost I would like to thank the many students I have taught over the years for the often astute questions they posed about correct word usage in German. Without their insights into many of the problems dealt with here, this book may never have seen the light of day. I would also like to thank Dr Ana Deumert of the German Department at Monash University in Melbourne for taking the time to answer the many questions I bombarded her with where the dictionaries and other books on the topic left the answers I sought up in the air, which was so often the case.

I am also indebted to Guido Ernst from the Department of German and Swedish Studies at my own university for his thorough reading of the manuscript and the many valuable suggestions he made. Readers are encouraged to write to me with suggestions for the improvement of future editions of this book. All constructive criticism will be very gratefully received and acted upon. GDR insep.

The previous sentence is an example of why this issue is not always clear-cut because with an event, as is the case in that sentence, it is also possible to use es gibt, e. See Durrellpage for more on this complex issue. The last alternative sounds rather bookish, but is the one that corresponds closest to the German. Although German could say here Ein alter Mann wohnt in diesem Haus, the construction with es is preferable.

German could of course use es gibt here. In the sing. Sache can also refer to concrete things, but in very general terms, e. Was meinst du? Denken is generally speaking only used when your thoughts are devoted to s. Woran denkst du jetzt? Denken von relates to having an opinion about s. Was denkst du davon? This expression is very close in meaning to the next item with which it is commonly interchangeable.

Mastering German Vocabulary: A Practical Guide to Troublesome Words expression can also have a negative connotation but there will usually be some indication of this, e. It is possible for a person to be the object of drohen but the object must be in the dative case, e. A more official sounding word for modes of transport is Fahrschein, a word you will often see written.

It is not, however, impossible for other tickets to be referred to by this word, e. Erstmals is synonymous with zum erstenmal, e. Wie lange wohnst du schon in England? When any country is qualified by an adjective, the definite article must be used i. Sie geht auf eine Party is also possible see AT. This can, however, be expressed by means of a simple dative with no preposition, but then the word order changes compare the English translations of the above and the followinge.

Note that with geben only the option with the simple dative is possible, e. To say s. Was hat er zu dir gesagt? Germans do not insist on using euphemisms e. Otherwise the most neutral word is Toilette pron. The full forms Klosett and WC 48 The distinction here, if any, is that with in you are thinking more of the building and with zu more of the purpose. Abtasten is also used when s. You may even hear Ort lit. Bereisen is a tr. Wie lange dauert die Fahrt von Bremen nach Hamburg?

Trip is an informal synonym of both Fahrt and Ausflug, but not of Reise, which meaning it can have in English, e. Ich kann hier nicht wenden. Do you know where the next opportunity to Mastering German Vocabulary: A Practical Guide to Troublesome Words is?

Dreh deinen Sessel bitte um! When it is s. Sprich bitte lauter. When it comes to comprehending ideas, verstehen can be replaced by begreifen, e. Kapiieren is a coll. Fassen, which is always used together with a negative, expresses strong inability to comprehend s. Other unions i. Only in die Vereinten Nationen the United Nations is vereint required. In the exact sciences, having done the basic degree in whatever field, you end up a Diplomingenieur, Diplombiologe, Diplomphysiker etc.

After any of these basic degrees you go on to a doctorate if you study further, i. Wo sind die Kinder? Renn bitte schnell mal hoch und hole meine Mastering German Vocabulary: A Practical Guide to Troublesome Words There are contexts where some of these words are interchangeable but the following explanations will serve as some help to understanding the distinctions between them.

Benutzen indicates using s. A: Kannst du dies gebrauchen? I have a use for it in mind. Gebrauchen is the appropriate verb for things you own and regularly use, e.

Geh bitte rauf und hilf ihm! Gebrauchen can emphasise the effect on the person or thing being used, e. When s.

This book explains how to use over 2, common German words by providing example sentences in German with English translations.

The book is designed for intermediate to upper intermediate German students; it is a practical companion for anyone serious about perfecting their German skills.

Seeing as German and English are related languages, you may be less likely to run into difficult words as with other non-related languages. Mastering German Vocabulary: A Practical Guide to Troublesome Words attempts to help students have a more thorough understanding of the language as a whole.

The book reads as an English-German dictionary. In that case, this book is not for you. Your only hope is to look in the brief one-word German-English index in the back and hope that the word you are looking for is present.

The main portion of the book states a word in English and then gives any number of translations into German. Then, the book goes on to explain the circumstances in which you would use each option. This explanation is done in English but provides an example sentence for each word.

Strangely, the book offers no phonetic spelling of words. The formatting of the book is also quite a problem. There are no spaces between words; only a small indentation alerts us to the fact that we are on to a new Mastering German Vocabulary: A Practical Guide to Troublesome Words entry.

This makes it very difficult to scan each page if you know exactly which word you are looking for. With so many bold print statements and words in the explanation sections, there Mastering German Vocabulary: A Practical Guide to Troublesome Words little to help the word entry to stand out.

There are often words that are tricky to tackle when learning a new language, which is why the name of this book initially caught my attention. However, upon opening it up, I was quite confused at the correlation.

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