

Enjoy German!

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This is a previously taught course with new content. This course aims at broadening a student's vocabulary and understanding of the day-to-day German spoken today. The etymology of certain words will be discussed, and the rules of grammar will be explained on request. This term we will continue reading selected chapters of the instructor's memoirs. We will cover his months in the British occupation zone in Germany in 1945 and 1946.

NOTE: Students should have a basic knowledge of German. Because there is no clear definition of "basic knowledge," the instructor invites students to attend the first class to find out if their knowledge is sufficient to profit from the course.

The plan:

- The German text for the term is emailed to all students prior to the first class.
- the instructor reads one section of his memoirs slowly with perfect pronunciation, e.g. as spoken in German classical theaters
- the instructor translates the section into English
- the instructor reads the text again, this time at normal speed, e.g. as German is spoken today. By this it is hoped to train the hearing and understanding of spoken German.
- each student is asked to read one sentence of the text, while the instructor writes the main words, maybe unknown to students, on the white board
- the instructor explains each word written on the white board
- The explanation may encompass the root of the word, possibly different meanings, usage in maybe different contexts, etymology of the word, classification as slang, familiar or literature usage. This is the time where students are encouraged to ask any question, including grammar questions
- after all words on the blackboard are explained/discussed, the instructor reads the next section (see start of plan)