PREFACE

As a college senior in the early 1970s Jannach’s *German for Reading Knowledge* was the required textbook in a course called “Scientific German.” That first edition of “Jannach” was filled with exercises and readings on acids, chemical compounds, and World War II. The step-by-step grammar outline provided our class with all the basics to translate German texts, which back then was nearly the sole purpose for learning the language.

Much has changed in the meantime. *Jannach’s German for Reading Knowledge* has developed into a tool intended to meet the needs of students in the humanities, arts, and social sciences who have decided to concentrate on the skills of translating and reading German for academic purposes. This sixth edition continues to provide 1) clear grammar explanations focused on non-speaker perceptions and 2) approaches to negotiating meaning. The exercises and readings have been chosen with thought to both “bottom-up” and “top-down” reading approaches: From the bottom up, they build on and recycle grammar and vocabulary from chapter to chapter in ways that encourage attention to individual words and functions, as well as to the importance of using a dictionary effectively. From the top down, the variety of topics reflects multiple facets of contemporary German-language cultures promoting interpretive thinking, reflecting, guessing and further reading by students from a wide range of academic fields.

Users who liked the fifth edition will be glad to find the style and even a good deal of the content of the sixth edition unchanged but much refreshed. Changes to the new edition include:

- An introduction to students and instructors on “how to use this book,” plus added reading strategy tips on learning vocabulary and using a dictionary have been added to early chapters. Further suggestions can be found in a new version of Appendix C: “How to choose and use a dictionary”.
• **Grundwortschatz** (basic vocabulary) and text glosses have been streamlined by clarifying their role in the learning process and removing repeat entries; basic definitions reflect usage in a given chapter or text.

• Glosses to *Lesetexten* (readings) and *Wiederholungen* (review texts) have been revised and reduced in volume; emphasis has been placed on idioms, unfamiliar terms/forms, and text-specific meanings. Reduced glosses also encourage reading strategies (form recognition, vocabulary learning, contextual intuition, background knowledge and/or dictionary skills).

• *Übungssätze* (exercise sentences) were checked for standard German usage and content and about 40 sentences were updated, rewritten or added. Updated translations of all the nearly 550 *Übungssätze* are available as an online exercise sentences key at www.thomsonedu.com/heinle/german.

• Three new *Lesetexte* provide fresh perspectives on Europe’s view of the AIDS pandemic, mobility in Eastern Germany, and “Ostler” as immigrants. Six *Lesetexte* were updated and/or supplemented with additional historical background.

• Updated online reading comprehension guides with pre-reading, reading, and post-reading activities for the 30 *Lesestücke* are also on the companion website at www.academic.cengage.com/german/korb. All website links suggesting further reading are regularly reviewed and updated.

• Based on instructor and student feedback, grammar presentations including the following were expanded or revised: nominative interrogatives, N-nouns, possessive pronouns, *es gibt*, prepositions following nouns, adjectival nouns, reflexive verbs, and subjunctive II.

• A new presentation of *es* used in weather expressions has been added to Kapitel 30 and metric conversions were removed from Kapitel 2.

• Grammar tables, also available for review on the companion website at www.academic.cengage.com/german/korb, have been made user-friendlier throughout the new edition.

Readings and exercises in *Jannach’s German for Reading Knowledge*, Sixth Edition, have been tested on graduate students and scholars preparing for exams or research involving German-language texts. Additions and revisions to the new edition have been made with those readers in mind.
Acknowledgements

I should like to thank my colleagues in the Department of Germanic Languages at Columbia University for their support and to express my gratitude to Columbia students and instructors for invaluable input in revising the sixth edition.

Thanks as well to the following colleagues for their thoughtful reading and guidance throughout the writing process:

Please provide names.

Special thanks are due to Robert K. Bloomer (SUNY, Stonybrook), Kai Artur Dies (Rutgers University), Samuel J. Spinner and Simone Vaidean (Columbia University) for their invaluable suggestions, and to my partner, Donald Downs, for reading, cooking, cleaning, and being so patient.
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How to Use German for Reading Knowledge

This book provides guidance and practice in applying basic German grammar and vocabulary to reading and translating progressively complex texts. The basic components are: grammar outlines, vocabulary lists, exercise sentences, chapter readings, and review readings after every five chapters. The companion website adds exercise keys, grammar review charts, and reading guides.

Here are suggestions how best to utilize these features.

1. **Grammatik** (grammar outline): Use outlines for reference purposes. Compare explanations and examples to structures in the exercise sentences. Bring comments and questions on the grammar for class discussion. Refer to the companion website’s grammar charts for review (www.academic.cengage.com/german/korb).

2. **Grundwortschatz** (basic vocabulary): These common words recur throughout the book and are listed with basic meanings and forms. They are the basis for your personal active vocabulary list, and they appear again in the end vocabulary (pp. XXX–XXX).

3. **Übungssätze** (exercise sentences): Daily practice translating and then reviewing these sentences builds vocabulary and skills in recognizing word function and context. After translating all the sentences, check your accuracy using the online exercise key (www.academic.cengage.com/german/korb). Note both errors in your translation—to facilitate feedback and avoid future errors—and idiomatic expressions. The online key strives for idiomatic translations instead of word-for-word renderings. Bring questions and comments for class discussion.

4. **Kapitel Lesestücke** (chapter readings): These passages can be used to practice reading strategies and/or translating contextualized material. The online reading guide (www.academic.cengage.com/german/korb) provides pre-reading activities to activate background knowledge and help organize an approach to reading skimming and scanning activities to introduce the gist and key elements of the text, intensive reading activities to promote thinking about information in the text, and suggestions for further reading. Links are reviewed and updated regularly.

5. **Wiederholungen** (review readings): After every five chapters, a review reading recycles grammar and vocabulary, and challenges
students to develop individual reading strategies and to improve dictionary skills. Glosses in both the review readings and the readings after Kapitel 7 concentrate on idioms and text-specific terminology. Pay attention to context and to functions as you read, and when necessary use your dictionary. For suggestions on dictionary use see Appendix C (XXX–XXX).