

Preface

It is not possible to master a language without gaining insight into its system of rules. This is true of the mother tongue as well as the target language.

This book is a newly revised and updated edition of the highly successful *Lehr- und Übungsbuch der deutschen Grammatik*, first published in 1996. It is intended for lower-intermediate and intermediate learners of German who want to acquire a solid, coherent knowledge of German grammar. It offers simple rules with extensive examples, lists and tables for reference, and a large number of exercises. The rules and explanations have been combined into short steps, the exercises relate precisely to the preceding explanations.

Within the structure of the book the easier features of German grammar are dealt with first, the more difficult ones later. Parts I and II deal with the parts of the simple sentence, Part III with the adjective declensions and Part IV with the subjunctive. The use of prepositions is covered in Part V.

At the back of the book is a fold-out section for quick reference, with the most important features of verb conjugation and noun and adjective declension. The terminology used (and explained in detail in the appendix) corresponds to that generally used in German-as-a-Foreign-Language teaching today; declension tables follow the sequence nominative, accusative, dative, genitive.

For this new edition all exercises and example sentences have been revised, updated and modernised. Grammar explanations have been simplified and connected more clearly to their example sentences. The design has been modernised and made clearer.

Grammar rules can only help you to understand how a language works. It is more important to be able to use them. The exercises are therefore an important component of the book. Wherever possible and meaningful, the exercises are not made up of single, individual sentences, but constitute one continuous text. Whilst the vocabulary used in the example sentences and in the exercises in the opening chapters is fairly simple, it becomes more demanding in the latter part of the book. The more challenging exercises are marked with a dot.

Thanks to the Key (available separately), which enables learners working on their own to check their answers, the *Practice Grammar of German* is also ideally suited for use as self-study material.