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Deutsch: Na Klar! An Introductory German Course 6th Edition



Synopsis

Deutsch: Na klar! offers the most trusted solution for helping Introductory German students develop their communicative competence. The sixth edition preserves the hallmark features that instructors have come to trust, and through its use of current, authentic cultural materials, Deutsch: Na klar! teaches students how to use German in real-life situations effectively and how to communicate successfully in the German-speaking world.

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Customer Reviews

Monica D. Clyde is a native of Düsseldorf. She received her Ph.D. in German literature from the University of California at Berkeley. She has taught German language and literature at Mills College, Cal State San Marcos, the Defense Language Institute, and the College of San Mateo. She was Director of Faculty Development and Scholarship at Saint Mary's College of California until her retirement in 2003. She coauthored *Texte und Kontexte* and was contributor to *Mosaik: Deutsch Kultur und Literatur*.

I had to buy this as the textbook for my class. It's not a horrible book - it goes through language concepts in English and includes some helpful cultural tips. But the vocabulary is not well organized. All the words in the chapter are not presented in a single place - you need to flip through the book to make sure you got all the words. For an independent learner, it's not terribly robust and doesn't explain some of the finer nuances of the language well (like the whole grammatical gender

thing). This is also a case of textbook ripoff. The revisions between editions are quite minor; I've discovered the workbooks for the 6th and 5th editions are nearly identical. If you need to buy this book series, see if you can save cash by buying an older edition (especially since the audio portions for each edition are available online).

For professors considering using this book: Please, please don't. This is a singularly unhelpful book. It is poorly organized, expensive, and nearly worthless for self-teaching. It does however, have lots of pictures and pretty multi-color printing! For students in a class using this book: It's a terrible text, but you'll probably have to buy it anyway. And I wouldn't recommend getting a previous edition to save money either - the publisher has made many small, insubstantial changes to the current edition so that the exercises are slightly different and on different page numbers. I tried to use the 4th edition for class, but there were enough differences that I needed the 5th edition to follow along comfortably. Also, neither this textbook nor the workbook or lab manual when purchased from included the Quia Book key for the online exercises. If your professor requires them, you'll have to purchase a separate book key from the Quia website.

I bought the book for an introductory German class. As other reviewers have said, the book is not great. It lacks mostly in the fact that, as other reviewers have said, it starts off the beginner German student totally immersed in German. Full paragraphs are presented in German from chapter one, when you have no understanding of anything. Another problem I had with the text was that it just wasn't interesting. At all. Since it's a textbook, I don't expect it to be a page-turner, but this is just miserable to get through (and that's saying something; I read biographies for fun). The passages are boring and not very insightful. The cultural notes are not very long or detailed. Because there are no characters that follow the student through each chapter, there are so few examples of how people in real life would use what you're learning in the book. The exercises feel like old-school drills. They are not very helpful, either, and don't even come with a key. If I didn't have a professor to help me understand, I don't think I would get any of it at all. (I still don't really get it, actually.) The grammar sections are very formal, using linguistic terminology without providing very good explanations for people who haven't studied a language before. This is definitely not a book I would suggest to people who want to learn German on their own or who rely on the book rather than a lecture. As someone taking an online German class and doesn't have lectures, I implore you to find a different book or plan to visit your teacher frequently for questions.

I really wish this book had instructions in English. I'm okay with the practice being in German. But when you're a beginning student, it takes you twice as long to get through the exercises because you have to look up what the directions are asking you to do. The chapters and grammar points don't seem to follow intuitive order for new language learners. I have studied three other non-English languages and wasn't as confused by the order of introduction to new vocabulary and grammar. A more advanced concept will be thrown into the mix and will leave you wondering if it was explained earlier or not. (Chances are it wasn't). This book introduces new concepts but only gives you a few practice questions. So you will have to do more than the book and lab manuals to really hone in on the way this language works. All in all, I wish there was an easier book to work with. My use of this book is accompanied by a separate dictionary and the Living Language German grammar coursebook, which explains German grammar rules in straightforward, simpler terms.

This really is not a good book. If you have to use this for your German class, like I do, I feel your pain. This edition is almost identical to the newer 6th edition. However if your professor has you do problems directly from the book for homework, then you should probably get the newer one because pretty much the only things that they changed in the new edition is things like names, numbers, times, etc. For example in the 5th edition: "Ich bin 23 Jahre alt." Then in the 6th edition it would be exactly the same except for the number: "Ich bin 34 Jahre alt." It is a major rip off to call the 6th edition a "new edition". If you only need the book to read for class but not do specific problems from the book then save some money and get the older 5th edition.

I found this book poorly organized, impractical, and worst of all, completely illogical. Trying to learn a language that is above all else logical from a book like this is a hopeless pursuit. Grammar lessons are scattered and incomplete. I hate to think how much time I've spent searching through the book for simple, BASIC, important information that may or not be there at all. Vocabulary words are not very useful, and most lessons in the book are too situational to be of any practical use. Simply put, this book doesn't teach the reader to speak German - it's more of a 'Dummies Guide to German-speak for American Tourists'. Teachers, unless your class is entirely focused on 'Tourist 101' German, PLEASE PLEASE find a better textbook.

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