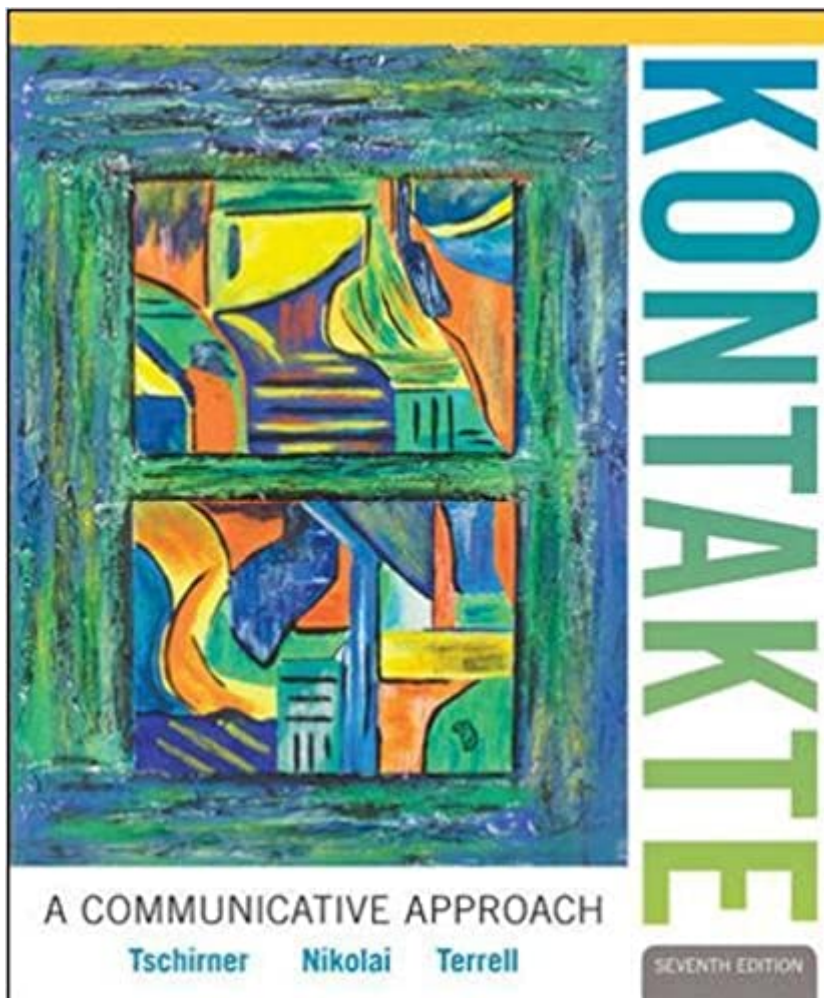


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# Kontakte (German)



## Synopsis

Your students are changing. Technology is changing. The idea of the classroom is changing. Now, the way your students learn German is changing as well. In preparation for this edition of *Kontakte*, we conducted extensive research, employing a wide array of research tools including surveys, focus groups, and ethnographic studies to identify the key goals and challenges of the introductory German course. Not surprisingly, communication and cultural competence are among the top goals of the majority of instructors, who are facing the challenges of fewer contact hours, budget cuts, and new course formats that make these goals difficult to achieve. The Seventh Edition of *Kontakte* continues to offer a truly communicative approach that supports functional proficiency while responding to these changing needs in new and exciting ways. As a direct result of our research, we created Connect German ([www.connectgerman.com](http://www.connectgerman.com)), a powerful online learning platform that includes the ebook, the online *Arbeitsbuch*, an audio/video chat feature, and a brand-new video filmed in Leipzig, thereby offering a flexible solution for the evolving introductory German landscape. Enhanced by these powerful new digital tools, the Seventh Edition of *Kontakte* does the following:

- Engages students in authentic culture and inspires them to communicate with confidence by providing them with the natural contexts they need to develop their language skills
- Provides tools for flexibility and easy course administration
- Achieves consistent results across the different course formats offered: face-to-face, hybrid, and online.

\*Connect German, including but not limited to the workbook/lab manual, the video program, and chat tools, is sold separately and does not come automatically with the purchase of the textbook. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

(First and Second Staatsexamen, GÄtttingen and Fulda) is OberstudienrÄstin (German, English, Physical Education) at the Werner-von-Siemens Gymnasium in Bad Harzburg, Germany. She taught German at all levels of instruction at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, and she was a Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. She is co-author of Assoziationen: Deutsch fÄ r die Mittelstufe and the series Lextra â “ Englisch Grund- und Aufbauwortschatz nach Themen. Her main interests are: the role of vocabulary in language learning, reading strategies, and the role of art in language teaching. She has been a certified ACTFL OPI tester since 1989. Tracy D. Terrell (late) received his Ph.D. in Spanish Linguistics from the University of Texas at Austin and published extensively in the area of Spanish dialectology. Professor Terrellâ™s publications on second-language acquisition are widely known in the United States and abroad. (Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley) is Gerhard Helbig Professor of German as a Foreign Language and Applied Linguistics at the University of Leipzig and President of the Institute for Test Research and Test Development in Leipzig, Germany. Before joining the University of Leipzig, he taught at the University of Iowa, Iowa City (1990-1998) and at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1988â “1990). His main research areas are: second language acquisition, corpus linguistics, language testing and assessment, and language policy. He is (co-) author of over 150 books, book chapters, and journal articles. He has extensive experience in test research and development for all language modalities (speaking, listening, writing, and reading). He has been a certified ACTFL OPI tester since 1989 and tester trainer since 1993. He has been a major contributor to the internationalization efforts of the University of Leipzig, establishing and directing joint BA, MA, and Ph.D. programs with universities in the Netherlands, Mexico, Brazil, and the U.S. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

Unnecessarily complex and disorganized, this 'introductory' textbook would frustrate any first-year German student. I know, because my wife has suffered through 2 quarters at the Univ. of Washington, Seattle, and I was on her side the whole time. I am a native German speaker, so it was a real painful experience for me to see her struggle. For a 7th edition, one would think that most of the errata had been corrected - but no, there are grammatical mistakes in the chapters I read with her. In an effort to be contemporary, the authors try to include real-life conversations and audio.

Except these do not help much, because the colloquial language found there is not translated or idioms explained. Since the expensive, graphics-heavy textbook is oriented toward the majority of German speakers, Austrian and Swiss German comes up short. Even with a full-fledged dictionary in hand, Kontakte does not satisfy the need to successively read and understand conversations, assignments, and tests. I bet there are other, more conventional, but also better-organized, textbooks that guide the beginner through vocabulary and grammar exercises that allow students to register progress and achieve some familiarity with the German language. It definitely is not a self-study publication, but it also fails the grade for in-class instruction.

If you're forced to buy the "Connect" online content, it comes with the ebook version. So, you won't need the text if you have computer/internet access. Bring a laptop to class, or buy the cheaper 2008 edition for in class use.

This debacle of a textbook experience made me want to drop German class. They require a separate CD that costs as much as the book itself. It wasn't until halfway thru the semester that we actually got the online materials figured out. These textbook companies are out to make money, bottom line. I am a prodigy language learner, yet the sheer amount of material required to pass to the next chapter is simply discouraging. I can't imagine how those students who struggle in language would ever manage to get anything from this text. The objective here wasn't to learn, but to struggle on the next chapter of overwhelming, irrelevant content. Luckily, my German professor saw through this facade of a text and granted grades based on actual, learnable material; material that this book did not provide in my opinion.

Came in great condition. The textbook itself is very good, though I must say I'm unable to separate my judgement of the book from my excellent teacher... The textbook takes one through the nominative case first, focusing on clothing, then adding verbs, and then delves into the complex task of listening comprehension, adding daily activities, and then time. Finally, the accusative case is taught, and at this point, the grammatical side becomes more difficult. I do not teach German, am merely a student, but I think the textbook does a very good job of setting up the foundation and then after a few chapters (A, B, 1 all of which of course add new elements and become more nuanced) the book adds in an entirely new case--- yet the student is certainly prepared to handle the new information as there has been plenty of practice and proper instruction on how to construct sentences and healthy amounts of vocabulary. I think the book well-balanced, not too heavy on any

aspect. As mentioned by others the approach is communicative, though there is a structured approach to grammar as well, I would still recommend getting a grammatical companion to work through alongside the textbook. Mainly so you remain aware of structure and grammar is then presented in a different, concise, manner than how it is being presented in the textbook. One must always keep their mind sharp when learning a language, so as not to fall into complacency as language is a living, breathing thing, with the structure of an entire society contained within the grammatical rules. I'd recommend practicing outside of class often, watching German films to become acclimated to the sound and culture in Germany and Austria. Have fun and make sure to say "ja" and "sehr schön" often!

This was a decent textbook for learning German. It is about 80% vocabulary and grammar and 20% culture lessons. I did enjoy some of the tidbits on culture like the German fairy tales and nursery rhymes. The group activities were also fun and provide a chance to immerse students in German. The progression makes sense. I do not like how some words that have not been covered in the vocabulary randomly pop up (especially in the directions) and cause a little confusion. It would make more sense to use English in the directions until a student has the vocabulary to read the directions. Maybe start with English directions and slowly substitute German once the words have been covered in the Vocabulary. I would have given the book 5 stars had it not been for the price. I feel like it should have been better considering it is quite a bit more expensive than other German books. This textbook is better used in group (classroom) setting as opposed to a person wanting to pick up the language alone. Most of the activities are group-oriented so great for a classroom but not so great solo (talking to yourself in German does not help learn much).

Much more useful than the online version.

There is a special place in hell for textbook publishers that force you to purchase homework access for an additional \$200. This textbook is useless as part of a college course without homework access. While the text may be of limited use for self-guided learning, it isn't worth any more than a \$5 goodwill hand-me-down in this capacity.

Rented it, no access code, cost me an arm and a leg to buy. The whole thing is a scam, and the book isn't very good. Half of the vocab words don't come with translations. If you must, get the E-book version if you need online homework access.

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