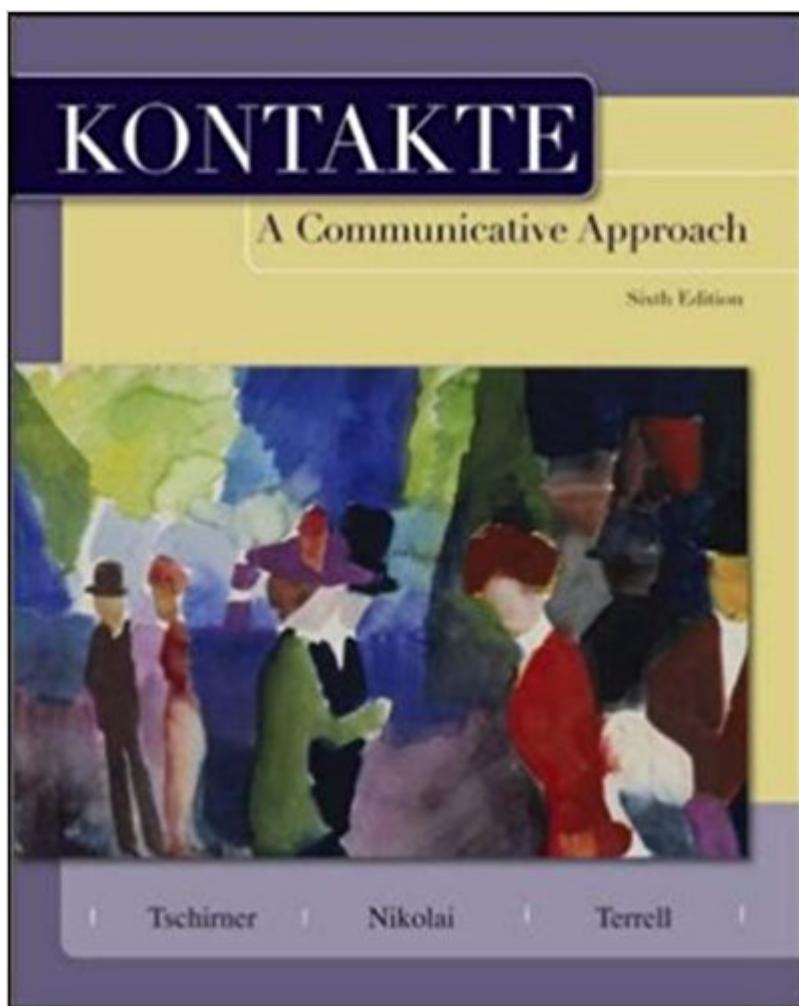


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# Kontakte: A Communicative Approach (Student Edition)



## **Synopsis**

This best-selling German text is based on and inspired by the Natural Approach, pioneered by Tracy D. Terrell. Students learn German through communicative contexts with an emphasis on the four skills and cultural competence, with grammar functioning as an aid to language learning and not as an end in itself. The abundance of interesting personalized activities and a wide variety of authentic and author-written readings in Kontakte ensure that students are exposed to rich language input, critical to language acquisition. A full range of supplements, including video, audio and interactive online materials, provide multiple opportunities to practice newly acquired vocabulary and grammar and further refine developing language skills.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Dr. Erwin Tschorner received his M.A. from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. He is Professor of German as a Foreign Language and Applied Linguistics at the Herder Institute of the University of Leipzig, Germany, and Adjunct Professor of German Studies at the University of Arizona. He is an internationally recognized authority on foreign language learning, methodology, testing, and materials design, including multimedia materials, and has taught in universities in the United States, Cuba, and Germany. He has lectured and consulted in North America, Europe, South East Asia, and the Middle East.

Professor Tschorner is coauthor of *Kontakte: A Communicative Approach* and *Assoziationen: Deutsch für die Mittelstufe* and has published numerous articles, book chapters, books, and edited volumes in the field of foreign language teaching and learning. He has been a tester and

tester trainer for the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview since 1989 and 1993, respectively. School affiliation was listed as the University of Iowa---Iowa City. School status cleared 5/27/99. 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.

Great product; great value

The book's teaching method is different from other language books I have had. The book has an intuitive learning style which makes the vocabulary relatively easy to learn. The book is split up into several different sections and includes a vocabulary list and grammar section after each chapter. These pages are a different color than the other pages making them easy to find. My only complaint would be the lack of examples for some of the exercises. Overall this is not a problem but sometimes it is an issue. Also, this book can be bought with a book key included. It is cheaper to buy the text without the key and get the book key (assuming your class requires it) from the publisher.

This is "stylish" waste of paper that is the required reference in class today unfortunately- 10 times the price of more reliable textbooks, and confusing. "Kontakte"- at \$270 for the 7th edition, it is one of the worst things to spring all that money for! The concepts crystallize across far too many pages so it becomes difficult to follow the rules which are essential to learning a new language. Even at \$30 for a second-hand 6th edition, this is a fruity textbook; never mind the \$270 for the latest 7th edition! The vocabulary and the grammar separately at the end of the chapters (flip, flip, flip) are unnecessarily tedious. The days of the week and the months for example are not clearly spelled out when they are first introduced- you have to read the silly illustrations or wait until (more flip, flip, flip) a few more pages in the next chapter. The emphasis on grammar is not consistent and it is very easy for a student to miss keys in the sentence construction. My recommendation: A German: How to Speak and Write It (Beginners' Guides)

Goes step-by-step into grammar. Easy to learn. Lots of pictures. Maybe not the best you can find but it's the best I have.

I believe the text is too difficult for the level of student that it purports to target. The readings defeat

the student when there are 18-20 words on one page that the student is not familiar with. Instead of being fun, the reading is a chore. Vocabulary lists are much too long to be able to master before moving on to the next chapter. Grammar explanations are written in an obscure way, necessitating having to read them over and over to understand what they mean. There is really a strange dichotomy in the presentation, where puerile cartoonish picture dialogs are interspersed with obfuscated grammatical concepts. I do not recommend this book. Fortunately, I bought a used version for \$12.

The order of instruction to practice exercises is very strange. Exercises come first in the chapters, THEN instruction. Not entirely sure why they thought it was a good idea to have you do exercises you hadn't been instructed on yet. Also, kind of a pain that all of the exercise intros are entirely in German. If I knew German, I wouldn't have purchased the book. Unless this is a required text for your class, I'd say find something else.

It was listed as acceptable but it was extremely worn.. The outside cover and edges although these was very little writing inside the book. I could never resell this book. Just too worn. I have never bought a text before so maybe I had unrealistic expectations. Would look for a different rating if I ever bought another text through

This textbook is pretty decent. It helps to have the right teacher. Book can be kind of confusing, you can find a lot of missing stuff on the books website which is carefully hidden with in the book. Like the title says, Its all about the teacher. This book is not updated as often as most textbooks so it will usually carry over to your 2nd year of German.

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