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Hermann der Cherusker und die Schlacht im Teutoburger Walde

Goebel, Ferdinand

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II. Sentences On Syntax And Idioms For Viva Voce Practice

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II. SENTENCES ON SYNTAX AND IDIOMS

FOR *VIVA VOCE* PRACTICE

I *

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1. 1. It was in spring ; the birds were singing in the trees.
2. 2. A knight of advanced age rode along on the path of the beautiful forest.
3. 3. On his left side he wore a short sword, and with his right hand he stroked his long white beard.
2. 4. Now and then he stroked his horse's neck.
5. 5. The flowers which he had picked could be seen on his leather cap.
6. 6. The youth who accompanied the old gentleman hastened on.
3. 7. Finding the track of an aurochs, they followed it and soon perceived the beast at the lower end of a pond.
8. 8. The aurochs was an enormous animal with large horns, a broad neck, and black dishevelled hair, which formerly dwelt in the forests of Germany.
9. 9. When they attacked the animal it turned against them.
4. 10. One of the horsemen having hurled his spear into the neck of the aurochs, the latter rushed at him.
11. 11. Just at the decisive moment when he was going to hurl a second spear into the flank of the furious beast, the knight's horse stumbled and threw its rider.
12. 12. The furious beast would have dug its horns into the body of the fallen horseman, had not the spear of his companion dealt the aurochs a mortal stroke.

* Each exercise corresponds to one chapter of the text.

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5. 13. The youth bandaged the wound of the knight, who lay unconscious on the ground.
14. On recovering, the old man thanked his son with a loving look and a silent shake of the hand.
15. On their way back the youth looked now and then anxiously at the pale face of his father, whom he had rescued from death.
6. 16. When they came out of the forest they saw cultivated fields and some isolated houses before them.
17. Opposite them rose a steep hill covered with brushwood.
18. When they reached the top of the hill they perceived a large building surrounded by a rampart of big stones; this was the residence of the wounded knight, Siegmund, the prince of the Cheruskans.

II

7. 1. A large gate constructed of thick oak beams which was built into the rampart of unhewn stones was closed by a strong cross-beam.
2. A watchman kept guard on a tower erected near the dwelling-house.
3. The room was lit up by a pine-torch hanging on an iron chain from the oak beams of the ceiling.
8. 4. The high oak chair which stood by his side was adorned with artistic carving.
5. In spite of his ninety years he was still strong enough to sit upright in his chair.
6. I wonder where he may be and what he may be doing.
9. 7. As the old man shook his head his countenance darkened.
8. The Germans used to think everything good must come from abroad.
9. They used to think more highly of foreigners and foreign things than of their own people, whom they deemed coarse and clumsy.
10. 10. He is no match for you.
11. They had forgotten that the Germans many years ago had inspired the Romans with fear and terror.
12. If the people once recognise the danger which is threatening them they will rise in a body and drive the enemy from their free country.
11. 13. What we want is a leader who will rouse the people to great deeds.

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14. It is a pleasure to see Hermann grow up a noble German, whose heart is pure as gold.
15. He listened attentively and then told him what he had done the night Hermann was born.
12. 16. When Hermann is grown up to manhood, what God revealed to me that night will be fulfilled.

III

1. When the sun rose over the forest-clad mountains in the east the birds filled the green branches of the wood with their sweet minstrelsy.
2. They perceived at the foot of the hill several horsemen riding up to the castle.
13. 3. They recognised the tall sturdy figure of one of these horsemen as that of Segest, Hermann's uncle.
4. Segest was a friend of the Romans, who had come to Germany with the legions of the Roman emperor.
5. The watchman blew his horn three times to announce the arrival of strangers.
14. 6. Some food being put before them, the guests fell to heartily, for the ride in the fresh morning air had whetted their appetite.
7. I am delighted to welcome you to my castle after such a lapse of time.
8. We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that our people are still on a low level of civilisation.
9. We can therefore only congratulate ourselves that the Romans are introducing more refined manners and higher culture into our country.
15. 10. Though he felt as if he must cry out against such treason, he contained himself.
11. He introduced the two strangers, who were not able to speak German.
12. His annoyance grew as he listened, and he fidgeted about on his oak chair.
16. 13. He was astonished to hear the old priest say that Segest was right.
14. With a look full of meaning he turned to Siegmar and remarked that there would be no harm to any one in their going to Rome.
17. 15. He followed the conversation attentively and abandoned all resistance.

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16. He was quite ready to undertake the journey to the wonderful town of which he had heard so much.
18. 17. When the horses came out of the stable they neighed joyfully, and Hermann, taking a short start, vaulted over two of them.
18. Throwing the spear followed, and putting the stone was the last of these physical exercises, which were performed with great dexterity.
19. 19. He was to go to Rome, not to become a Roman, but to learn how to turn their own artifices against them in the struggle for freedom.

IV

1. The moon shed its silvery light over hill and dale.
20. 2. On a circular plateau on the top of the hill there stood a columnar stone, on which the priest offered sacrifices to the gods.
3. White skulls of horses offered in sacrifice were hanging on high poles all round the sacrificial stone.
21. 4. After the priest had plunged his knife into the animal's breast, fire was set to the wood and the flames flared up to the sky.
5. He entreated Hermann never to think lightly of the simple homely manners and customs of his people.
22. 6. Whatever they may say of the Roman rule, believe me, it aims at the loss of our most precious possession, our freedom.
7. One day he will oppose those foreign intruders at the head of his people.
8. True to the gods and to the country of his ancestors, he is to free the German soil from those foreign oppressors.
23. 9. Standing by the side of the altar, in the light of the crackling flames, with his sword raised to heaven, Hermann swore that he would remain true to the cause of his country.
10. No one spoke a word on their way home, for the solemn celebration in the silence of the night and the thought of what Hermann had vowed filled the hearts of all.

V, VI

1. On the day on which Hermann was to leave his home he rose early from his couch.

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2. On roaming through the stables and fields and climbing the tower for the last time, he was overcome with emotion.
24. 3. The whole family assembled in the great hall and took breakfast in silence.
4. Every one down to the meanest stable-boy was fond of Hermann, who was now to leave.
5. Be mindful of what you have promised.
25. 6. I wonder whether it will be granted me to see him again.
7. He was determined to keep what he had promised.
8. A two hours' ride brought them to Segest's castle.
26. 9. I have been expecting him for three days.
10. When the gate was opened he rode into the courtyard of the castle.
11. They rambled together through fields and woods looking for berries and picking flowers.
27. 12. They had not seen each other for a long time.
13. She could not understand why he too allowed himself to follow the Romans.
14. Do not be uneasy on my account, for I shall never forget and never deny my country.
28. 15. After partaking of a good lunch they started.
16. They were conversing in Latin about apparently important affairs as they put on their armour.
29. 17. She waited longingly for his return.
18. It is time to start ; get ready.
30. 19. After resting for a day at the fortress of Aliso, which Drusus had built on the river Lippe, they proceeded to the Rhine.
20. They rode up the Rhine to Mayence and then proceeded through Gaul to Italy.

VII

31. 1. The first days at Rome were spent in sight-seeing.
2. The splendour of a Roman house formed a strong contrast to German simplicity.
32. 3. On the other hand, he despised the life and character of the Romans with all his soul.
4. The Emperor highly appreciated the firmness and loyalty of the German people and was glad to see the sons of German princes enter his army.
5. After being in the Roman service for fully five years Hermann gained a thorough knowledge of the Roman method of warfare.

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33. 6. On his return to Rome he was present at a great chariot-race and the athletic sports.
7. The Romans dearly loved a show ; wherever sports were to be seen young and old were present.
8. Hermann's thoughts flew to his distant home, and he longed to return to his country.
9. He was firm in his resolve to leave the Roman service.
34. 10. Among the Roman soldiers he recognised a German by his fair hair and blue eyes.
11. An incident occurred which drew Hermann's whole attention.
12. When the bystanders laughed at the incident the Roman became furious.
35. 13. Though the German was free from blame in the matter, the young Roman kicked and insulted him.
14. You alone are to blame.
15. As soon as Hermann let him go the Roman made himself scarce.
36. 16. One evening as he was taking a stroll in the open air, he felt as if some one was following his steps.
17. It was in a ravine covered with thick bushes that he was suddenly attacked.
18. In a twinkling he seized his assailant and threw him to the ground.

VIII

37. 1. Hearing that his father was ailing and was longing for his son's return, Hermann at once carried out his resolution to quit the Roman service.
2. Though the emperor was sorry to lose so brave and intelligent a soldier, he granted the request.
38. 3. The emperor's stepson Tiberius had been recalled from his post as commander in Germany.
4. Though his prudent and gentle conduct had prevented any revolt, he was mistaken if he imagined that the Germans' passion for liberty had died out.
5. The new governor Quintilius Varus was repulsively avaricious, and thought he could treat the Germans as a conquered nation.
39. 6. Segest considered it an honour to be a Roman vassal and thus became a traitor to his country.

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7. Segest's son, who proposed to stay several more years in Rome, shared his father's views and was pleased with the life of the voluptuous city.
8. It is impossible to expect a people to stand up for its freedom if it sees that its own princes willingly bear the foreign yoke.
40. 9. Though he had often looked for him in the public streets and squares, he had never met him again to thank him for his protection.
10. It was not until later that he remembered the incident.
41. 11. They were both returning to their home.
12. The sight of the river Rhine and of the lofty mountains rising from its banks filled his heart with joy.
13. Times change and we change with them.
14. The Romans had excellent roads made connecting their various settlements, and had numerous country-seats erected on both banks of the Rhine.
42. 15. Hermann seized the opportunity to pay his respects to Varus.

IX

1. From the Roman general's tent one looked down on the noble country of the Lower Rhine.
2. On the floor of the room beautiful carpets and skins of animals were spread out.
3. Segest informed Varus that Prince Siegmar was very ill, and that his strength was failing every day, so that he might die any day.
43. 4. Nothing, not even the rank of Roman knight with which he had been invested, could seduce Hermann from his love for his people and his country.
5. It had cost trouble enough to induce the father to let Hermann enter the Roman service.
6. It may be assumed that his former hatred is now gone.
7. Segest had received very favourable reports from Rome about Hermann, and great hopes were placed in him.
44. 8. Once we have a firm footing in the country, the rest will follow.
9. What does this mean?
10. Both Segest and Varus were much astonished to see the fine youth before them.
11. How is it that you are no longer in Rome, and have returned so soon to your country?

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45. 12. It would have been a disgrace if he had allowed himself to be induced by his ambition not to return to his father's sickbed.
13. Though Segest gave him a meaning look, Varus inquired in a most friendly way about Hermann's experiences in Rome.
14. Being anxious about his father, Hermann took his leave as soon as possible.

X

46. 1. Just as the sun was setting in the west they reached the tower of the priestess Velleda.
2. God protects our country, and foreign intruders will learn that we know how to defend our hearths to the last drop of our blood.
3. He believed that the priestess could read men's fate in the stars.
47. 4. She lived in a tower built of unhewn stone.
5. She sat in the middle of a circle, her grey hair hanging down to her knees.
6. On her withered features there appeared a look of hatred when she noticed the Roman garb.
48. 7. The priestess told Hermann of an old dream she had had, which made a deep impression on him.
8. Taking him by the hand the soothsayer led him under a gigantic oak-tree and placed a wreath on his head.
9. On taking leave of him she bade him remember her dream on the great day that would come.
49. 10. His companion durst not make any inquiries about the interview, because Hermann was so entirely lost in thought.

XI, XII

1. A few hours after passing Aliso, Bertuolf took leave of Hermann and went to his old father's farm near the source of the river Lippe.
2. The freedom of our hearth and home is at stake.
3. Bertuolf told Hermann that he could count on him at any time, and that the clansmen would be ready to draw the sword for their ancient freedom.
50. 4. As he galloped up the mountain the gate opened and all the servants appeared to welcome him.

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5. His mother informed him that his father was seriously ill and impatiently awaited his son's return.
6. When Prince Siegmar saw his son again a feeling of pride came over him, while a happy smile passed over his pale features.
51. 7. Union is strength, and nothing but united action will save us.
8. Siegmar was buried with solemn pomp; his arms were put into his grave with him so that he might take part in the sports and chase in Valhalla.
9. Hermann was much grieved when he noticed that Thusnelda intentionally avoided meeting him.
52. 10. There could have been no more malicious calumny than the rumour of Hermann having become a traitor to the cause of his country.
11. He had gone to Rome for no other reason than to become intimately acquainted with the Roman method of warfare.
12. Seeing that she had wronged him she begged his pardon.
53. 13. On succeeding to his father's power Hermann endeavoured from the outset to keep on intimate terms with the other German chieftains.
14. Hermann married Thusnelda against her father's will.
15. Thusnelda was possessed of too great a love for her country than to comply with her father's wish that she should marry a Roman knight.
54. 16. One day Bertuolf appeared at Hermann's castle and informed him that the Romans were contemplating building a fort on the ground where his father's farm stood.
17. The old man could hardly believe his ears when he heard he must give up the bit of land on which his ancestors had lived and died.
18. Though the Romans said that his prejudice was ridiculous, he stood firm and did not give way to their wishes.
55. 19. The demand being repeated over and over again the father at last had too much of it, and sent the Romans off his homestead.
20. During Bertuolf's absence the farm had been burnt and he found the body of his poor old father among the ruins.
21. Night and day Bertuolf was thinking of avenging the death of his poor father on the foreign oppressor.

XIII

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56. 1. The cup was now full, and the time for action had come.
2. Bertuolf carried Hermann's secret message to the German chieftains, and a meeting was arranged for the next full moon on the elf's meadow in a dark forest in the mountains.
3. At this meeting Hermann was going to lay his plan for the liberation of their country before the assembled chieftains.
57. 4. At last the hour came and on a stormy night, by the pale light of the full moon, the chieftains assembled clad in the skins of animals and provided with pine torches.
5. When Hermann took his place on the rock in the midst of the assembled chieftains they all became silent and every one listened eagerly to his words.
6. He said that they were gathered together in a noble and sacred cause, since the point at issue was to consider how their beloved country could be freed from its oppressors the Romans.
58. 7. Bertuolf gave an account of the outrage which had been perpetrated on the farm of his ancestors and on his aged father.
8. The chieftain of the Amphivarii, whose body was clothed in a bear-skin, and whose beard flowed down to his girdle, also gave evidence.
59. 9. Bojocal had formerly been a friend of the Romans, but he said that his friendship had been ill rewarded.
10. The Amphivarii, having been driven from one place to another, the misery among them had become greater and greater and only a few of them were now left.
60. 11. Hermann pointed out that they would be unworthy of their ancestors if they were to suffer this treatment any longer.
12. He urged them to enter on a life-and-death struggle on behalf of their beloved country, and to clear the sacred soil of their provinces of those robbers.
13. The proposal was accepted with great enthusiasm.

XIV

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61. 1. Varus related with satisfaction how the Roman rule was spreading in Germany more and more, and how the Roman language and Roman customs were steadily gaining ground among the uncouth Germans.
2. All who were present at the banquet extolled Varus as the man who had brought about these great results.
3. Just then a messenger from Hermann arrived outside the tent of Varus.
62. 4. The messenger appeared before Varus, made his bow, and drew a sheet of parchment from the fold of his smock.
5. Hermann informed Varus that the Germans on the river Weser had risen in rebellion, that the Roman settlements were destroyed, and many Romans had been murdered.
6. Everybody was astonished that Hermann should send this news.
63. 7. The Roman legions marched in pouring rain through the narrow ravines.
8. The toilsome march and the inclement weather made the cheerfulness of the Roman soldiers turn to a general depression.
9. Though Varus had ordered him to be ready with his followers to join the Roman legions, none of Hermann's forces could be seen.
64. 10. Varus's confidence in Hermann began to be shaken, and he gave the signal to press on more quickly.
11. Then suddenly a German division with deafening shouts rushed down from the mountains and attacked the Roman flank.
12. Though the Roman army was for a moment brought to a halt it soon advanced again in close order.
13. When the Romans had reached a small plain Varus eagerly awaited the attack of the main body of the Germans.
65. 14. The attack which Varus expected did not take place, for the German troops seemed to have vanished.
15. When the Romans continued their march through further ravines the Germans under Hermann's chief command attacked the enemy with great enthusiasm and loud battlesongs.

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16. Though the Romans had immediately entrenched themselves, the attack was made with a dash there was no resisting.
66. 17. When Hermann beheld Varus he shouted to him to defend himself, for the hour of requital had come.
18. Varus in his despair seized his sword and plunged it into his breast.
19. The flight of the Romans became general, but most of them fell or were made prisoners.
67. 20. The joy of the Germans at their splendid victory was immense, and bonfires were lit on all the mountains of their cantons.

XV

1. After this terrible defeat the Romans did not venture again in a hurry to invade German territory.
68. 2. Hermann's great aim was now to strengthen and farther extend the federation of the German chieftains.
3. Though he partially succeeded he could not escape the envy of some of the German chieftains.
4. The Roman general Germanicus undertook a campaign to chastise the Germans.
69. 5. When the Romans had again reached the forest of Teutoburg Hermann once more totally defeated them.
6. Thusnelda fell into the hands of the Romans by the treachery of her own father, and was taken a prisoner to Rome.
7. Marbod, a German chieftain, tried by all sorts of intrigues to cast suspicion on Hermann as though he was striving for exclusive sway over all the German tribes.
70. 8. Bertuolf remained true to him, and he noticed that Hermann's life was aimed at.
9. One day when he was alone, sitting under the large linden-tree in front of his castle, he was murdered.
10. Bertuolf having watched for one night by his master's body went away, nobody knew whither.