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THEMENUNABHÄNGIGES VOKABELFUNDAMENT DER ENGLISCHEN SPRACHE

- Do it yourself
- Ein gedächtnisfreundlicher Vokabelhometrainer für Selbstlernerinnen und Selbstlerner
- Ein Fitmacher für die Oberstufe, das Abitur und das moderne Leben

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Introduction: How this handbook works

Dear user,

maybe you feel the time has come for you to increase (*verbessern*) your English wordpower quickly, effectively and in a sustainable (*nachhaltig*) way. Perhaps you are trying hard to keep your head above water in your attempt (*Bemühen*) to get used to the requirements (*Anforderungen*) of the *Oberstufe* and the *Abitur*, or you are attending a *VHS* course. Possibly you are a first semester student who intends to study English, medicine or whatever abroad (*im Ausland*) for a while, and you have realized that your active English vocabulary is insufficient (*unzureichend*). It needs some brushing up (*Auffrischung*) urgently (*dringend*). To cut a long story, it is high time to act now.

No matter (*ganz egal*) what your motivation may be, you have realized that you have to improve (*verbessern*) your English fast. This memory-friendly vocabulary workshop for upper intermediate and advanced learners of English enables you to brush up, expand, enrich and update your English vocabulary on your own. Memorize effective multifunctional expressions to your advantage (*Vorteil*) in foreseeable standard situations.

The main purpose (*Zweck, Anliegen*) of this self-help book is to supply (*bereitstellen*) a solid infrastructure of high-frequency (*gängige, häufig verwendete*) multifunctional expressions. It enables you to cope (*zurechtkommen*) successfully with foreseeable standard situations, no matter what topic (*Thema*) you are dealing with.

Collocations are word partners. They are very important in English. For example, you **do** your **homework**, and you **make** a **mistake** sometimes. Saying “I have **made** my **homework**“ is **totally wrong**.

Learn common (*gängige*) collocations as single blocks of language. They are memory-friendly. It is easier to remember sense units (*Sinneinheiten*) than single words. Use word partners often, and your English will soon sound more natural and idiomatic.

Moreover, you will have alternative and more authentic ways of expressing yourself when you speak English and when you produce texts.

You will be familiarized (*vertraut gemacht*) with hundreds of common collocations in this handbook. Here is a prime example (*Paradebeispiel*): Sooner or later you will have to deal with relationships, a mother-daughter relationship, for instance. Take a look at page 103, **Beziehung / relationship**, please. The collocations you will encounter (*begegnen*) there enable you to examine all sorts of relationships competently. Moreover, you will get good ideas for the comment you may have to write.

The German translation of words and expressions you will probably not know yet is given right away (*sofort*). There are several examples on this page. If there are other expressions in a text you are working with that you are not familiar (*vertraut*) with, look them up in a suitable (*geeignet*) English-German dictionary, please, provided that (*vorausgesetzt, dass*) they are important to you. It is a time-saving quickfinder. However, you will learn much more, if you consult your monolingual (*einsprachiges*) dictionary. As you go along you will get helpful additional (*zusätzliche*) information in correct and understandable English, clear

definitions, user tips and memory-friendly example sentences.

Useful high-frequency (*gängige*) multi-purpose expressions appear **in bold** (*Fettdruck*) throughout this book. When you are through with it in a few weeks, you will have come across hundreds of recyclable expressions. Memorize them in the given context and use them to your advantage in new communication situations, both in the classroom and in real life, when you travel, for example.

Discovery learning: Browse through this handbook now for a while out of curiosity (*Wissbegier*) and for orientation. Focus your attention on things that interest you so that you get a first impression of how this book is composed and in what ways it can help you to help yourself.

Enjoy the ride! Best wishes, Arthur Eva

Focus on irregular verbs

First things first! This is a safe haven. Irregular verbs are little troublemakers. When you are through with this list in about two weeks, you will feel comfortable with high frequency (*oft verwendete*) irregular verbs. You will avoid (*vermeiden*) many common (*übliche*) learner errors when you produce texts and when you speak English.

It might not be a bad idea to start right now. Work with one page every day. Revise (*wiederhole befestigend*) your daily ration the following day, after a week and after a month. After that you will feel at ease (*vertraut sein*) with new expressions because they have become part and parcel of (*ein fester Bestandteil von*) your active vocabulary.

Irregular verbs at a glance

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Key: C = common collocations (*gängige Kollokationen*)

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anfangen / begin - began - begun

- Life **begins** at forty.
- Their dispute **began** with an argument about money.
- It **has begun** to rain.
- C: **begin** a career / all over again / a new life / soon

aufstehen, aufsteigen / rise, rose, risen

- The sun **rises** in the east.
- Yesterday it **rose** at a quarter to six.
- If you **had risen** earlier, you would have caught the bus to Brighton.
- C: **rise** quickly / slowly / to power / to one's feet

auswählen, wählen / choose, chose, chosen

- Jane had to **choose** between the two men in her life.
- Unfortunately she **chose** Robert Moneymaker.
- She should **have chosen** Billy Beaver.
- C: **choose** a new name / carefully / freely / wisely

bauen / build - built - built

- Fools **build** houses and wise men live in them.
- They **built** the house in 1899.
- Rome **wasn't built** in a day.
- C: **build** a better society / a bridge / a house

bedeuten / mean, meant, meant

- My job **means** a lot to me.
- He said his job **meant** a lot to him.
- What **is meant** by the expression *runaway virus*?
- C: **mean** a lot / by / nothing / that / to somebody

behalten, halten / keep, kept, kept

- Can you **keep** a secret?
- It was cold, and he **kept** his hands in his pockets.
- He says they **have** always **kept** goats on their farm.
- C: **keep** a diary / geese / going / in touch / still / warm

bekommen / get, got, got

- The more he **gets**, the more he wants.
- He **got** a well-paid job as a waiter.
- The police **have** finally **got** the drug baron.
- C: **get** a shock / drunk / into trouble / nowhere / wet

beweisen, sich erweisen als / prove, proved, proved

- The exception **proves** the rule.

- Being a taxi driver **proved** more difficult than I had expected.
- His new theory **has** not **been proved** yet.
- C: **prove** a point / something to somebody / that

bezahlen / pay, paid, paid

- They that dance must **pay** the fiddler.
- They **paid** 700 dollars for an old second-hand car.
- I've already **paid** for your beer.
- C: **pay** back / by credit card / cash / for something

brechen, zerbrechen / break, broke, broken

- America makes you or **breaks** you.
- John Fastman **broke** two world records last night.
- He **has** just **broken** another world record.
- C: **break** a leg / a promise / the news / the speed limit

bringen / bring, brought, brought

- **Bring** me another glass of beer, please.
- The waiter **brought** the glass of beer immediately.
- Several extra chairs **were brought** in at midnight.
- C: **bring** back / happiness / luck / peace / to an end

denken / think, thought, thought

- What we **think**, we become. - *Buddha*
- I never **thought** that I would see Belinda again.
- Yes, I've **thought** it through. I feel it's a good idea.

- C: **think** carefully / differently / hard / otherwise

erzählen / tell, told, told

- Children and fools **tell** the truth.
- After a couple of drinks John **told** many juicy jokes.
- American farmers **had been told** that there was plenty of gold in California.
- C: **tell** a lie / a story / the difference / the truth

essen / eat, ate, eaten

- You cannot have your cake and **eat** it.
- We **ate** a pizza on the beach (*Strand*).
- - John, **have** you **eaten** all the biscuits?
- C: **eat** a lot / a pizza / healthily / slowly / too much

fallen / fall, fell, fallen

- The apple never **falls** far from the tree.
- He **fell** off the bike and broke his left arm.
- Heavy snow **has fallen** over SW England.
- C: **fall** down / into pieces / off the ladder / overboard

fangen, bekommen / catch, caught, caught

- The early bird **catches** the worm.
- The early cat **caught** three mice.
- Look what I **have caught!**
- C: **catch** a cold / a falling star / the ball / the bus

finden / find, found, found

- It is easy to **find** a stick to beat a dog.
- After three months he finally **found** a new job.
- Look what I've **found**.
- C: **find** gold / oil / oneself / something interesting

fühlen / feel, felt, felt

- A man is as old as he **feels**.
- I **felt** as if I had been there before.
- I **have** always **felt** good at that beach.
- C: **feel** better / comfortable / ill / strange / tired

führen, anführen, leiten / lead, led, led

- All roads **lead** to Rome.
- The tourist guide **led** the way and we followed him.
- The coronavirus pandemic **has led** to many problems.
- C: **lead** a discussion / nowhere / somebody by hand

geben / give, gave, given

- It is better to **give** than to receive.
- The doctor **gave** me a special suntan cream for my skin.
- My teacher **has given** me permission to go home early.
- C: **give** and take / one's phone number / up

gehen / go, went, gone

- Never **go** near the water until you learn how to swim.
- I **went** to the seaside to recharge my batteries.
- Unfortunately the milk **has gone** sour.

- C: **go** ahead / away / home / together / to the pub

gewinnen / win, won, won

- I always try hard, but I never **win** at table tennis.
- Who **won** the Tour de France in 2019?
- Harry Hare **has won** the silver medal again.
- C: **win** a match / easily / the election / unexpectedly

haben / have, had, had

- What you **have**, hold.
- We **had** a car accident on the way to Boston.
- **Have** you **had** enough to eat?
- C: **have** a good idea / a headache / breakfast / time

handeln, handeln von, umgehen mit / deal, dealt, dealt

- The book **deals** with the causes of climate change.
- John Smith **dealt** in second-hand books for many years.
- The money we get **will be dealt** out among us.
- C: **deal with something** competently / effectively

kommen / come, came, come

- March **comes** in like a lion and goes out like a lamb (*Lamm*).
- John Fastman **came** second in the 400 metres.
- The year before he **had come** third.
- C: **come** back / first / from behind / last / what may

kosten / cost, cost, cost

- How much does that yellow bicycle **cost**?
- The Queen's new hat **cost** her eighty pounds.
- He said driving too fast **had cost** him seventy pounds.
- C: **cost** a fortune (*Vermögen*) / a lot of money / much

legen / lay, laid, laid

- Hens **lay** eggs.
- Susan **laid** her baby gently down on the sofa.
- It **is** all **laid** down in the rules of our club.

C: **lay** aside / new cables / stress on something

lehren, unterrichten / teach, taught, taught

- You can't **teach** an old dog new tricks.
- His parents **taught** him always to tell the truth.
- This accident **has taught** me a lesson.
- **teach** effectively / English / in a primary school

lernen / learn, learnt/learned, learnt/learned

- It is never too late to **learn**.
- In school they **learned** that Washington never told a lie.
- What **have** you **learned** in school today?
- C: **learn** a lot / by heart / how to / nothing / quickly

lesen / read, read, read

- Don't **read** more into a text than out of it.

- I was shocked when I **read** about the forest fire.
- If you **had read** the newspaper, you would also have been shocked.
- C: **read** a good book / between the lines / lips

liegen, sich hinlegen / lie, lay, lain

- If you **lie** down with dogs, you will get up with fleas.
- The cat **lay/was lying** on the sofa.
- I felt dizzy because I **had lain** in the midday sun.
- C: **lie** around / in bed / on the beach / on your back

lügen / lie, lied, lied

- John, how could you **lie** to me?
- When John dated Susan, he **lied** about his age.
- She left him because he **had lied** to her too often.
- C: **lie** about something / constantly / repeatedly

machen / make, made, made

- One swallow does not **make** a summer.
- I **made** many silly mistakes in the dictation.
- When John **had made** his bed, he went to school.
- C: **make** a movie / a rule / breakfast / hay / trouble

nehmen, benötigen / take, took, taken

- It **takes** two to tango.
- Boris **took** Isabel by the hand.
- When I **had taken** a shower, I was as fit as a fiddle.

- C: **take** a look at something / milk and sugar

riechen / smell, smelt/smelled, smelt/smelled

- I think I can **smell** gas.
- In the kitchen it **smelled** of fish.
- If I **hadn't smelled** the gas, there might have been an explosion.
- C: **smell** bad / a rat / fishy / strange / trouble

sagen / say, said, said

- Never **say** never.
- He **said** he had a good alibi.
- When he **had said** that, he smiled his best smile.
- C: **say** a prayer (*Gebet*) / hello / goodbye / nothing

schlagen, besiegen / beat, beat, beaten

- If you can't **beat** them, join (*schließe dich an*) them.
- Last Saturday Arsenal **beat** Liverpool in an away game.
- John Fastman **has beaten** the world record.
- C: **beat** easily / Scotland 3 : 2 / somebody at chess

schreiben / write, wrote, written

- Think first and **write** afterwards.
- Who **wrote** *East of Eden*?
- John Shallow's autobiography **is** very poorly **written**.
- C: **write** a letter / an email / anonymously / down

sehen / see, saw, seen

- He **sees** the world through rose-coloured spectacles.
- I **saw** you in the pub last night.
- I **haven't seen** my parents for quite a while.
- C: **see** clearly / easily / the situation / what time it is

sein, werden / be, was/were, been

- To **be** or not to **be**, that is the question.
- I **was** in California last summer.
- Where **were** you last summer?
- Where **have** you **been** all day?
- C: **be** a teacher / frustrated / in trouble / happy / lucky

sprechen / speak, spoke, spoken

- Think first and **speak** afterwards.
- Fidel Castro **spoke** non-stop for two hours.
- Many a true word **is spoken** in jest (*Spaß*).
- C: **speak** broken English / English fluently / more slowly

stehen / stand, stood, stood

- United we **stand**, divided we fall.
- The pupils **stood** up when the teacher came in.
- That old house **has stood** empty for seven years.
- C: **stand** around / aside / back / by / up for something

suchen / seek, sought, sought

- **Seek**, and you will find.
- We **sought** for a solution, and we found one.

- John **has sought** for a solution for a long time.
- C: **seek** advice / to find a peaceful solution / peace

tragen, ertragen, gebären / bear, bore, born/borne

- How can you **bear** that terrible noise?
- Jane **bore** him two children, a girl and a boy.
- Susan **was born** at home on a Sunday.
- C: **bear** children / fruit / pain / responsibility / the cost

treffen / meet, met, met

- When can we **meet** again?
- I **met** Susan in Blackpool last Sunday.
- We **have met** several times this year.
- C: **meet** briefly / online / privately / with somebody

tun, machen / do, did, done

- **Do** as I say, not as I **do**.
- Frank Sinatra always **did** it his way.
- Last week's win **has done** wonders for our team.
- C: **do** badly / business / good / Spanish / nothing

verbreiten, ausbreiten / spread, spread, spread

- Coughs (*Husten*) and sneezes (*Niesen*) **spread** diseases.
- The bad news **spread** like wildfire.
- The forest fire **has spread** dramatically.
- C: **spread** fast / rapidly / rumours (*Gerüchte*) / widely

vergeben / forgive, forgave, forgiven

- To know all is to **forgive** all.
- He never **forgave** his business partner for lying to him.
- He **has** not **forgiven** him.
- C: be able to / be unable to / be willing to **forgive**

verkaufen / sell, sold, sold

- Buy in the cheapest market and **sell** in the dearest.
- I **sold** my old car last Saturday.
- I **have sold** my old car.
- C: **sell** at a profit / newspapers / one's soul to the devil

verlieren / lose, lost, lost

- You cannot **lose** what you never had.
- Arsenal **lost** their home match against Liverpool.
- We can't go to work by car. I've **lost** my car keys.
- C: **lose** a game / an election / blood / hope / money

vergessen / forget, forgot, forgotten

- Forgive and **forget**.
- I **forgot** my passport at home.
- Sorry, I've **forgotten** your name.
- C: **forget** completely / easily / quickly / soon / totally

verlieren / lose, lost, lost

- Run faster! There is no time to **lose**.
- Liverpool **lost** their home match against Chelsea.

- It's better to **have** loved and **lost** than never to have loved at all.
- C: **lose** a game / an election / blood / money / weight

wachsen, anbauen / grow, grew, grown

- This farmer **grows** corn and potatoes.
- Janis Joplin **grew up** in Texas.
- John, you are a big boy now. You've **grown** a lot.
- C: **grow** fast / in cold climates / slowly / up / well

werden / become - became - become

- What we think, we **become**. - *Buddha*
- Neil Armstrong **became** an astronaut in 1966.
- What **has become** of your sister?
- C: **become** a pianist / nervous / rich / world-famous

werfen / throw, threw, thrown

- How far can you **throw** the ball?
- He **threw** himself onto the bed and cried.
- The bus braked and we **were thrown** forward.
- C: **throw** aside / away / back / down / somebody out

wissen / know, knew, known

- What you don't **know** can't hurt (*wehtun*) you.
- I thought you **knew** the answer.
- In former times Istanbul **was known** as Constantinople.
- C: **know** for sure / much / nothing / the way / very well

zeichnen, ziehen / draw - drew - drawn

- Don't **draw** hasty conclusions (*Schlussfolgerungen*).
- - Boris **drew** Belinda towards him and kissed her.
- Many tourists **are drawn** to the North Sea every year.
- C: **draw** a picture / attention to something / beautifully

zeigen / show, showed, shown

- Can you **show** me how to make an omelette?
- I **showed** my passport to the officer.
- The president **has shown** himself to be a good listener.
- **show** around / one's tongue / photos / respect

Focus on adjectives

You can use adjectives to characterize people, places, things and situations.

In *Dinner for One* Miss Sophie, an English upper-class lady, asks James, her butler, to serve the white wine with the fish. It is **obvious** that James is a **good** butler and that the white wine is **excellent**, but in the given situation there are **several** adjectives that describe what is going on more precisely and in a way that catches nuances. Here is an example:

*Miss Sophie, an **elderly** upper-class lady, asks James, her **experienced, loyal** and **dutiful** (pflichtbewusster) butler, to serve the **delicious** white wine with the fish.*

This example illustrates that you would do well to avoid (*vermeiden*) **vague** and **imprecise** adjectives such as **good, bad, interesting** and **boring** if you can think of a more **suitable** (*geeignet*) alternative. Your teacher will not be **amused** at all if you **banal** adjectives too often.

For instance, instead of saying that you have **good** neighbours, you could characterize them as follows: “Our **next-door** neighbours are **friendly**, very **helpful** and totally **reliable** (*zuverlässige*) people.”

There are more than one thousand adjectives in the English language. You cannot learn them all. If you learn about one-hundred style-enhancing (*stilverbessernde*) evergreens, you will increase your English wordpower within a few weeks.

Kick-start:

able / fähig, kompetent: Grandmother is still **able** to take care of herself. / Grandfather is **unable** to walk without a stick.

C: **able to** express something / solve a problem / talk

absent / abwesend, nicht vorhanden: He who is **absent** is always in the wrong.

C: **absent** from school / work; strikingly / wholly **absent**

acceptable / akzeptabel: The pizza was **acceptable**, but no more. / The high level of unemployment (*Arbeitslosigkeit*) is **unacceptable**.

C: be / seem **acceptable**; fully / grammatically **acceptable**

accurate / akkurat, genau: These data are not quite **accurate**. / This piece of information is **inaccurate**.

C: fairly / not completely / not quite / totally **accurate**

active / aktiv: This book helps you to expand your **active** vocabulary. / This virus remains **inactive** inside the body. C: physically / very **active**; **active** social life / volcano

addictive / süchtig machend: Cocaine is a highly **addictive** drug. / Tobacco can be **addictive**. C: **addictive** game / painkillers; extremely, very **addictive**

additional / zusätzlich: Use online sources (*Quellen*) for **additional** information, if necessary.

C: **additional** charge (*Aufpreis*) / expenditure (*Ausgaben*)

advanced / fortgeschritten: This course is for **advanced** learners of English who wish to update their English. C: **advanced** age / technology; technologically **advanced**

advisable / empfehlenswert, ratsam: It is **advisable** to reserve a table in *The Red Lion*.

C: be / seem **advisable**; always / not **advisable**

aggressive / aggressiv, draufgängerisch, ungestüm: Their dog is **aggressive** towards the postman.

C: be / become / look **aggressive**; physically **aggressive**

alive / am Leben, lebend, lebendig: The doctors fought to keep the patient **alive**.

C: be / escape / keep somebody / stay **alive**

alone / allein(e) / I'm alone very often, but I'm not lonely at all.

C: be / feel / sit / live **alone**; all / quite **alone**

amazing / erstaunlich: It's **amazing** how many people can't swim.

C: be / look **amazing**; just / quite / really **amazing**

ambiguous / zweideutig, mehrdeutig: Boris Johnson's statements on Europe were **ambiguous**.

C: highly / rather / somewhat / very **ambiguous**

ambitious / ehrgeizig: The **ambitious** football coach said to his players, "Yes, we can. The sky is the limit."

C: be / seem **ambitious**; extremely / fairly **ambitious**

angry / ärgerlich, verärgert, wütend, zornig: I don't understand what our teacher is **angry** about.

C: be / become / feel **angry**; a little / terribly **angry**

anxious / ängstlich, besorgt: The bus to the airport was late and the Millers began to get **anxious**.

C: be / become **anxious**; a little / extremely **anxious**

attractive / anziehend, attraktiv: Jack finds Jessica very **attractive**. / Your offer (*Angebot*) is **unattractive**.

C: be, look **attractive**; extremely / financially **attractive**

autonomous, autonom / eigenständig: This handbook is ideally suited (*geeignet*) for **autonomous** learners of English who practise self-teaching.

C: fully **autonomous; autonomous** province / state

average / durchschnittlich: The **average** American does not want to be an **average** Joe.

C: grade point (*Noten*) / national / three-year **average**

avoidable / vermeidbar: Experts say the avalanche (*Lawine*) was **avoidable**. / The local people say the avalanche was **unavoidable**.

C: easily / completely / wholly **avoidable**

aware / bewusst: The mountaineer (*Bergsteiger*) was fully **aware** of the danger. / He is **unaware** of the risks and hidden consequences.

C: be / become **aware**; fully / hardly / well **aware**

bad / schlecht, schlimm, übel: Looking at the computer screen for several hours can be **bad** for your eyes.

C: **bad** driver / news / weather; fairly / terribly **bad**

balanced / ausgewogen: A well-**balanced** diet is good for your health. / This is an **unbalanced** report.

C: carefully / fairly / nicely / perfectly **balanced beautiful / schön:** Black/Small is **beautiful**.

C: extremely / really / unbelievably **beautiful**

big / groß: Football has become **big** business. / Buying an apartment in Monaco was a **big** mistake.

C: **big** house, success; extremely, fairly, very **big**

bitter / bitter: If life gives you a **bitter** lemon, make a lemonade out of it.

C: be / feel / seen / taste **bitter**; very **bitter**; **bitter** pill

brave / mutig, tapfer: The champagne had made John **brave**, so he asked Mary if she was willing to dance with him.

C: a **brave** fight; amazingly / fairly / very **brave**

brief / kurz (und bündig): Here is a **brief** description of life in the Wild West.

C: **brief** relationship / summary; fairly / very **brief**

busy / beschäftigt, fleißig: I'll go to bed. I've had a very **busy** week. / Jane was **busy with** her make-up.

C: awfully / extremely / terribly **busy**

calm / ruhig, gelassen, windstill: The sea was **calm**.

C: be / feel / seem / look **calm**; completely **calm**

capable / fähig: John Moneymaker is a highly **capable** event manager.

C: extremely / fairly / quite / very / well **capable**

careful / sorgfältig, vorsichtig: Be **careful** when you swim in this coastal area.

C: **careful** about / with; extremely / really / very careful

characteristic / charakteristisch, typisch: Rolling hills are **characteristic** of this part of the country.

C: **characteristic of** buildings; highly / very characteristic

central / zentral, wesentlich: My **central** thesis is, "Being multilingual benefits the brain."

C: **central** Africa / city / character of a film / heating

chief / wichtigste(r,s): The **chief** business of America is business. - *President Calvin Coolidge*

C: **chief** adviser / inspector / reason