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# **Understanding English-German Contrasts**

4., neu bearbeitete Auflage

von  
**Ekkehard König  
und  
Volker Gast**

ERICH SCHMIDT VERLAG

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## Preface to the fourth edition

While the third edition of this book, published in 2012, represented a considerable extension of the previous editions from 2007 and 2009 (with three additional chapters, Chapter 6 on modals, Chapter 15 on compounding and Chapter 16 on derivation), the present edition differs less from its predecessor as far as matters of content are concerned. We have primarily revised the two ‘peripheral’ chapters of the book, the introduction (Chapter 1) and the conclusions (Chapter 18). These chapters have been extended with the aim of broadening the perspective a bit and taking some of the more recent work in contrastive (English-German) linguistics into account. The field is thriving and continuously extending in various directions, which we take as evidence for the success of the contrastive approach after its dissociation from the field of language pedagogy (cf. Chapter 1). On a theoretical level, there is some recent work dealing with some of the explanatory questions raised by Hawkins (1986) (cf. Chapter 18). Moreover, we have updated the list of references and the ‘Further reading’ section of each chapter. For some of the literature used by us new editions have appeared (e.g. Cruttenden 2014, Carr 2015), and there are some entirely new publications that are relevant to our book, e.g. Bauer *et al.* (2013), a handbook of English morphology, Schäfer (2016), a new grammar of German, and Gunkel *et al.* (2017a,b), a grammar of the German noun (phrase) which takes a comparative/European perspective, to name just three of the most comprehensive works.

Many colleagues have helped us to improve this book since the publication of the first edition in 2007. The present edition has primarily benefited from comments sent to us by John Hawkins (Davis) and Julia Schlüter (Bamberg). We are very grateful to them for pointing out some mistakes and inaccuracies that had escaped our attention.

Freiburg/Olomouc, 31.05.2018  
Ekkehard König, Volker Gast

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