



## Old German Script

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This course is designed to give family history researchers who read little or no German and have had no experience with German vital records a basic working knowledge of such records.

### Objective:

Patrons will be able to read basic vocabulary in old German script

One of the greatest challenges of reading records in German is deciphering the script. Even if the researcher can read German, that does not mean he or she will be able to read an old record. In addition to the script problem, each scribe had his own way of making letters, so that adds another level of difficulty. As with any skill, practice is necessary to gain a level of competence in reading old German records.

Old German script, sometimes called Gothic script, developed centuries ago and was used in various forms into the 20th centuries. It was also used in countries other than Germany, such as The Netherlands and in Scandinavia. Since it has not been the primary script in Germany since 1941, many Germans today cannot read it.

### A short glossary:

#### Birth & baptism

geboren  
Geborene  
Geburten  
Taufen  
getauft

#### Marriage

Heiraten  
geheiratet  
Trauungen  
getraut  
Ehe  
Copulierte

#### Death & burial

Tote  
gestorben  
Verstorbene  
beerdigt  
Beerdigungen

### For a more extensive vocabulary list, see:

[https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/German\\_Word\\_List](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/German_Word_List)

### For an article on German language, including numbers, see:

[https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/German\\_Language\\_and\\_Languages](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/German_Language_and_Languages)

### For further reading:

[https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Germany\\_Civil\\_Registration#General\\_Historical\\_Background](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Germany_Civil_Registration#General_Historical_Background)

Handwriting (you will find links to other classes and tutorials)

[https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Germany\\_Handwriting](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Germany_Handwriting)

### Want to learn more? See this site:

FamilySearch Research Wiki: [https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main\\_Page](https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page)

GERMAN ALPHABET TYPES

	GOthic	SCRIPT CAPITALS	SCRIPT SMALL LETTERS
A	A a	A A A A A	a a a ä
B	B b	B B B B	b
C	C c	C C C C	c ch = ch
D	D d	D D D D	d dt = dt
E	E e	E E E	e
F	F f	F F F	f ff = ff
G	G g	G G G G G	g
H	H h	H H H H H	h
I	I i	I I	i
J	J j	J J J J J	j
K	K k	K K K K	k
L	L l	L L L L	l
M	M m	M M M M	m mm = mm
N	N n	N N N N	n nn = nn
O	O o	O O O	o
P	P p	P P P P P	p
Q	Q q	Q Q	q
R	R r	R R R	r
S	S s	S S S S S	s ss = s sch = ff
T	T t	T T T	t
U	U u	U U	u ü
V	V v	V V	v
W	W w	W W W W	w
X	X x	X X	x
Y	Y y	Y Y Y	y
Z	Z z	Z Z Z	z

EXERCISE #1  
LETTERS and TWO-LETTER COMBINATIONS

1. <i>o</i>	16. <i>M</i>	31. <i>f</i>	46. <i>J</i>	61. <i>v</i>
2. <i>j</i>	17. <i>Z</i>	32. <i>f</i>	47. <i>7</i>	62. <i>if</i>
3. <i>l</i>	18. <i>R</i>	33. <i>L</i>	48. <i>n</i>	63. <i>6</i>
4. <i>A</i>	19. <i>Q</i>	34. <i>L</i>	49. <i>n</i>	64. <i>L</i>
5. <i>z</i>	20. <i>L</i>	35. <i>D</i>	50. <i>n</i>	65. <i>z</i>
6. <i>i</i>	21. <i>F</i>	36. <i>L</i>	51. <i>no</i>	66. <i>no</i>
7. <i>f</i>	22. <i>L</i>	37. <i>F</i>	52. <i>no</i>	67. <i>no</i>
8. <i>ij</i>	23. <i>A</i>	38. <i>7</i>	53. <i>n</i>	68. <i>f</i>
9. <i>n</i>	24. <i>P</i>	39. <i>R</i>	54. <i>i</i>	69. <i>f</i>
10. <i>o</i>	25. <i>U</i>	40. <i>O</i>	55. <i>n</i>	70. <i>o</i>
11. <i>b</i>	26. <i>Q</i>	41. <i>B</i>	56. <i>Lf</i>	71. <i>o</i>
12. <i>in</i>	27. <i>R</i>	42. <i>L</i>	57. <i>Q</i>	72. <i>ij</i>
13. <i>m</i>	28. <i>J</i>	43. <i>f</i>	58. <i>W</i>	73. <i>no</i>
14. <i>ij</i>	29. <i>O</i>	44. <i>o</i>	59. <i>n</i>	74. <i>W</i>
15. <i>ij</i>	30. <i>J</i>	45. <i>n</i>	60. <i>D</i>	75. <i>P</i>

1. Johann Heinrich Wilhelm Peter
2. Anna Christina Maria Lucretia
3. Jacob August Georg Martin Simon
4. Dorothea Christiana Amalia Eva

Joseph Carl Franz Anton  
 Anna Elisabeth Augustina  
 Jakob Georg Lorenz David  
 Friederich Wilhelm Philipp  
 Nikolaus August Friedrich  
 n n n n

Anna, Sebastian, Jacob, David  
 Eberhard, Anna, Catharina, Eva  
 Je. Adam, Hippolyta  
 Emma, Anna, Maria

Januar März Mai Juni  
April September November  
Juli August Oktober Dezember

Januar Februar März  
April Mai Juni  
Juli August September

Oktober November Dezember  
Januar Februar März  
April Mai Juni  
Juli August September  
Oktober

November Dezember Januar  
Februar März April