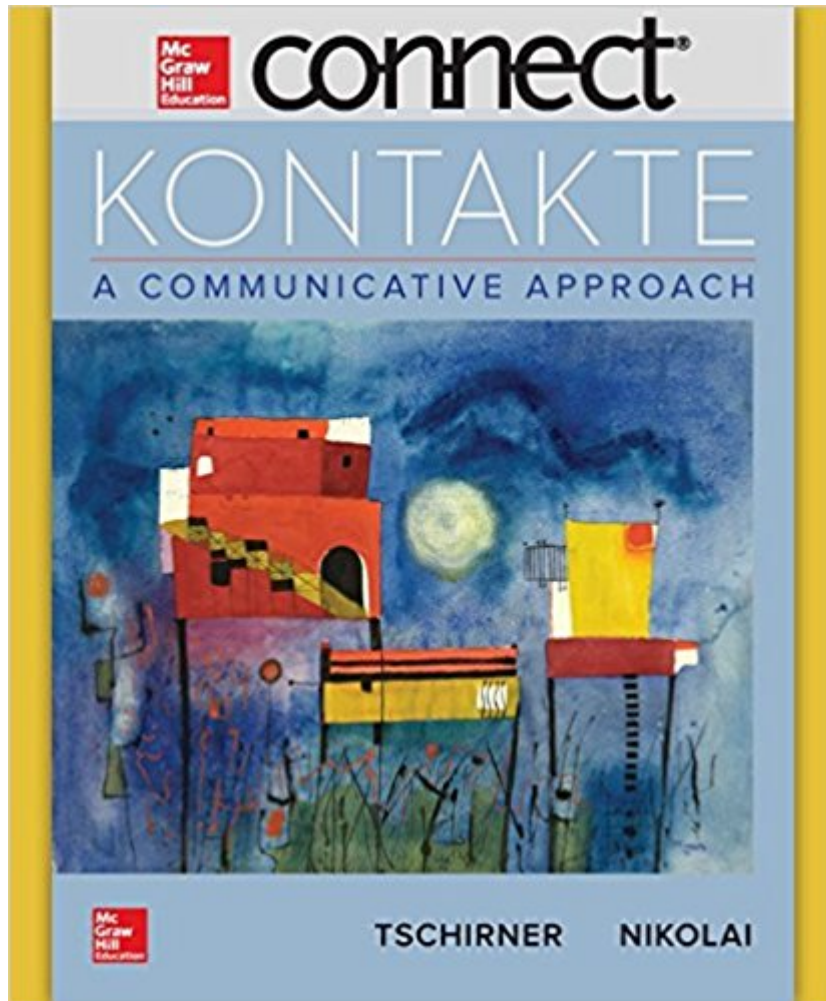




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# Connect Access Card For Kontakte



## Synopsis

McGraw-Hill Connect<sup>®</sup> is the most powerful and flexible course management system available. Rooted in research on effective student learning practices, the platform integrates adaptive learning tools with dynamic, engaging language practice activities. The result: better student learning of the German language. Your 2 year subscription includes the following:

- An interactive ebook, the complete Workbook/Lab Manual, grammar tutorials, and all the audio and video materials.
- LearnSmart, the only super-adaptive learning tool on the market, is proven to significantly enhance students' learning and improve course outcomes.
- A comprehensive gradebook to view your assignment results.
- Voice Board and Blackboard IM, integrated into McGraw-Hill Connect<sup>®</sup>, promotes communication and collaboration outside the classroom.
- The option to purchase (for a small fee) a print version of the book. This binder-ready, loose-leaf version includes free shipping.

Complete system requirements to use Connect can be found here:

<http://www.mheducation.com/highered/platforms/connect/training-support-students.html> McGraw-Hill Connect<sup>®</sup> does not come automatically with the purchase of the textbook.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

(Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley) is Gerhard Helbig Professor of German as a Foreign Language and Applied Linguistics at the University of Leipzig and President of the Institute for Test Research and Test Development in Leipzig, Germany. Before joining the University of Leipzig, he

taught at the University of Iowa, Iowa City (1990-1998) and at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (1988-1990). His main research areas are: second language acquisition, corpus linguistics, language testing and assessment, and language policy. He is (co-) author of over 150 books, book chapters, and journal articles. He has extensive experience in test research and development for all language modalities (speaking, listening, writing, and reading). He has been a certified ACTFL OPI tester since 1989 and tester trainer since 1993. He has been a major contributor to the internationalization efforts of the University of Leipzig, establishing and directing joint BA, MA, and Ph.D. programs with universities in the Netherlands, Mexico, Brazil, and the U.S. (First and Second Staatsexamen, Göttingen and Fulda) is Oberstudienrätin (German, English, Physical Education) at the Werner-von-Siemens Gymnasium in Bad Harzburg, Germany. She taught German at all levels of instruction at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, and she was a Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. She is co-author of Assoziationen: Deutsch für die Mittelstufe and the series Lextra – Englisch Grund- und Aufbauwortschatz nach Themen. Her main interests are: the role of vocabulary in language learning, reading strategies, and the role of art in language teaching. She has been a certified ACTFL OPI tester since 1989. 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 Terrell's publications on second-language acquisition are widely known in the United States and abroad.

Getting the card with code was the easiest part. The online application is horrible. The first time I tried to login I had to spend an hour on the phone with tech support. The issue was with their application not being able to handle a password larger than ten characters. Good luck trying to use IE. I had to install Firefox in order to use the website. There are a lot of videos and audio files you cannot access if you are trying to run it in IE. The online version does not correspond with the book at all. Page numbers are different online. Software is poorly developed. It's unfortunate you are forced to use the software and book for college German courses. It's very expensive for what you get. Horrible product!

Dear German Instructors, I get it. You are busy. In fact, I used to be a teacher myself, so I know better than most what it is like to stay up all night grading papers. This product sounds great because it handles that for you. I also know that you care. Unfortunately for you and your students, the assignments on Connect are absolutely terrible. They are confusing and the online version of

the book is poorly formatted to the point of being virtually useless. As I am nearing the completion of German 101, I thought I might provide you a few examples of just how terrible this product is for your students.1) Connect displayed a picture of a bedroom and asked, "where is the alarm clock?" I answered, "on the floor." Connect counted that wrong. The correct answer was, "on the carpet."2) Connect displayed a picture of a man standing by a door and asked, "what is he doing?" Not having the language attainment to be able to answer, "standing by a door for some unknown reason," I answered, "visiting a friend." The "correct" answer per Connect was, "going to work." I could find no evidence that this man was a bouncer and, honestly, I am still wondering why Connect thought I could garner that he was going to work from the information provided. In fact, the picture was so vague that I would not be surprised if next semester they decide to save money by replacing all pictures with just this one of a man standing by a door.3) The sections on modal verbs were even worse. The examples did not always make it clear whether the sentence should best be completed by "must," "should," or "want." Just like the two examples above, Connect was simply lazy. They did not provide enough context to make it clear that they were looking for one verb over another. I have gotten As on all of my assignments this semester, but I still find the Connect assignments confusing, unclear, and frustrating. My hope in writing this review is that you, the instructors, will start to demand more from textbook companies. They know that students have to buy the book and pay the license fee, so they do not listen to us. It is possible to do online homework well, but McGraw-Hill failed on this one.

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