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I'm My Own Grandpa

(by Dwight Latham and Moe Jaffe)

Many, many years ago
When I was twenty-three
I was married to a widow
Who was pretty as could be.

- 5 This widow had a grown-up daughter
Who had hair of red.
My father fell in love with her
And soon they, too, were wed.

- This made my dad my son-in-law
10 And changed my very life
For my daughter was my mother,
'Cause she was my father's wife.

- To complicate the matters,
Even though it brought me joy
15 I soon became the father
Of a bouncing baby boy.

- My little baby then became
A brother-in-law to dad
And so became my uncle
20 Though it made me very sad.

For if he was my uncle,
Then that also made him brother
To the widow's grown-up daughter,
Who, of course, was my stepmother.

- 25 *I'm my own grandpa,
I'm my own grandpa
It sounds funny I know,
But it really is so
I'm my own grandpa*

- 30 My father's wife then had a son
Who kept them on the run
And he became my grandchild,
'Cause he was my daughter's son.

- My wife is now my mother's mother,
35 And it makes me blue
Because, although she is my wife,
She's my grandmother too.

- I'm my own grandpa.
I'm my own grandpa.
40 It sounds funny, I know,
But it really is so,
I'm my own grandpa.*

- If my wife is my grandmother,
Then I am her grandchild
45 And every time I think of it,
It nearly drives me wild.

- For now I have become
The strangest case you ever saw
As the husband of my grandmother,
50 I am my own grandpa.

- I'm my own grandpa.
I'm my own grandpa.
It sounds funny, I know,
But it really is so,
55 I'm my own grandpa.*





1. Find these verbs in the text and fill in the simple past forms.

REGULAR SIMPLE PAST FORMS

a) Line 3 *heiraten* marry

b) Line 10 *ändern* change

IRREGULAR SIMPLE PAST FORMS

c) Line 4 *können* can

d) Line 5 *haben* have

e) Line 7 *sich verlieben* fall (in love)

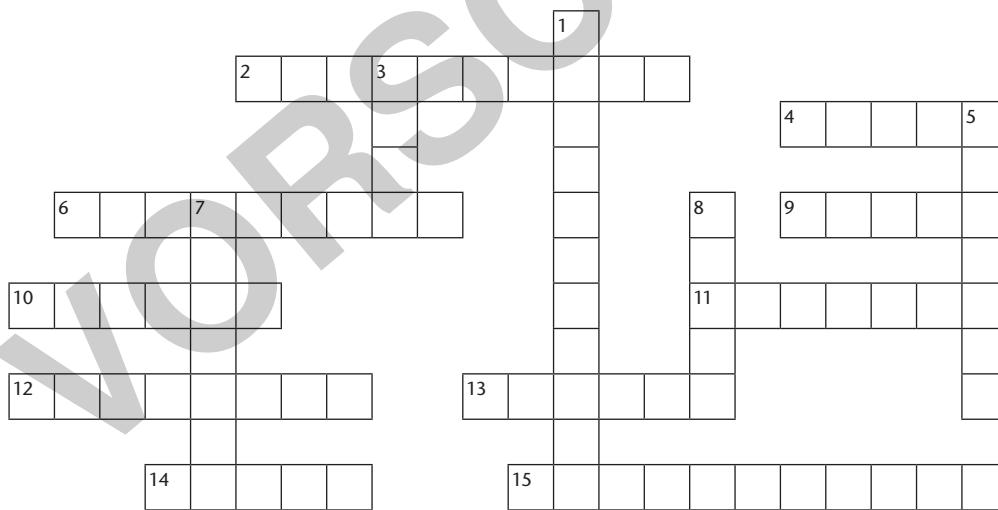
f) Line 9 *machen* make

g) Line 14 *bringen* bring

h) Line 15 *werden* become



2. Complete the crossword puzzle with the German translations (ß = ss).

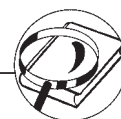


Across

- 2. grandpa/grandfather
- 4. boy
- 6. grandchild
- 9. widow
- 10. brother
- 11. daughter
- 12. brother-in-law
- 13. mother
- 14. uncle
- 15. grandmother

Down

- 1. stepmother
- 3. son
- 5. wife
- 7. husband
- 8. father



3. Complete the sentences with the correct word from the box.

case funny sad joy hair strange
 complicate grown-up wed life

- a) Uncle Harry has two (adjective) sons.
- b) I didn't eat the soup because I found a long brown (noun) in it.
- c) Tom and Sue met last April and three months later they were (verb)
- d) My great-grandparents were very poor and they had a hard (noun)
- e) Why do women always have to (verb) things?
- f) The good news from home filled me with great (noun)
- g) The news from home wasn't good and it made me very (adjective)
- h) The platypus (*Schnabeltier*) comes from Australia and it's a very (adjective) animal.
- i) Before he examined me, the new doctor read my (noun) notes.
- j) Uncle Albert can tell lots of jokes, but very few of them are really (adjective)



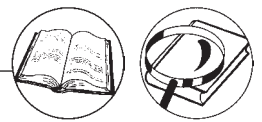
4. Refer to the song and fill in the missing words.

The 'protagonist' (*Hauptfigur*) is the 'I' person in the song. When the protagonist's father married the widow's grown-up daughter, who was the protagonist's (a) by marriage, his father became his (b). As his father's wife, his daughter by marriage then became his (c). Later the protagonist had a son. As this son was the (d) of his grown-up daughter he also became the (e) of his father. This made him the protagonist's (f). The protagonist's wife was also the (g) of his father's wife and this therefore made her the protagonist's (h).



A late visitor

- The time machine came into existence in the middle of a meadow with a loud “plop”. It was a dark, moonless night and nobody heard or saw it suddenly appear. Anik-Re checked the time: It was 7:20 p.m. on Thursday, April 10, in the year 2025. She was exactly 3,496 years in the past. Professor Collingwood would be alone in his house. Anik-Re checked
- 5 the big heavy gun in her shoulder bag. She got out of the machine and walked across the meadow towards the lighted windows of a house ahead. Professor Collingwood lived there alone and she had to kill him before he built the first anti-matter bomb. Soon after that terrorists used anti-matter bombs to destroy civilization all over the world. Millions of people died and for a thousand years the human race returned to the Stone Age.
- 10 Anik-Re held the gun in her bag with her right hand and pressed the doorbell with her left hand. The man who opened the door had dark brown hair and very blue eyes. Anik-Re was surprised. She had forgotten that in 2025 he was only twenty-six and he wasn't yet a professor.
- “Er, Dr Collingwood?” she asked and her finger tightened on the trigger of the gun.
- 15 “Yes, can I help you? I wasn't expecting a visitor so late.” Just then a small girl ran up to him and put her arms around his knees. “Daddy! Daddy! Read me a story, Daddy, please!” Dr Collingwood picked her up and the girl put her arms around his neck. Anik-Re was shocked. She hadn't expected a little girl. In her time, nobody had known anything about a daughter. She took her right hand out of her shoulder bag. She couldn't shoot him with
- 20 the young girl in his arms.
- “This is my daughter, Emily,” he told his visitor. “It's cold outside. Please come inside Miss ... er ... Mrs.” Anik-Re thought quickly. What names did she know from this time?
- “My name is Kirsti Makkenninen.”
- “Really? Dr Kirsti Makkenninen of Helsinki University? Your paper on the quantum mechanics
- 25 of black hole singularities was very interesting.” He held out his hand. “I'm very pleased to meet you at last, Dr Makkenninen. I didn't realize you were so young.” Anik-Re looked at his hand. Slowly she held up her own right hand. The man put his hand around hers and moved it up and down and then took his hand away. This must be a greeting ritual, Anik-Re thought. Now he was looking at her expectantly. What did he want?
- 30 “I didn't know you were in England, Dr Makkenninen. Or that you wanted to see me.”
- “Oh, yes. I have a message for you. My colleagues and I are very worried about your experiments with anti-matter. We think it is too dangerous and we want you to stop.”
- Dr Collingwood took his visitor into a pleasant living room. He sat down on a comfortable sofa with his young daughter on his knee.
- 35 “Please sit down, Dr Makkenninen. I can understand that some people are worried about anti-matter. Yes, it is a dangerous material, but that is why we must know more about it. There are so many wonderful things we could do with it.”
- “Yes, Doctor Collingwood, but the company that finances your experiments makes and sells weapons. They are only interested in making an anti-matter bomb. They will make
- 40 lots of anti-matter bombs and sell them to evil people who will use them and destroy our civilization!”



“People once thought that atomic power was too dangerous, Dr Makkenninen. The scientists who studied it first built an atomic bomb, but they didn’t destroy the world and people later used atomic power for other things, too. I’m a scientist, Dr Makkenninen. I’m only interested
45 in scientific knowledge. I’m not responsible for the practical applications of that knowledge. You and your colleagues are also scientists. You must understand my position.”

Anik-Re knew that she should now pull out the gun and shoot him. But she couldn’t do it. There was only one last thing she could do.

“My throat is very dry, Dr Collingwood. Could I have a glass of water, please?”

50 “Of course. I’ll fetch a bottle of mineral water from the kitchen. I’ll be right back.” He stood up and left the room. When he returned with a bottle and a glass, his visitor was standing at the front door.

“I’m sorry that I disturbed you, Dr Collingwood. I have given your daughter a small present. I hope she likes it. Goodnight.”

55 Dr Collingwood closed the door. That was a very strange visit. His daughter was sitting on the carpet with her back to him. She was holding something. It must be something heavy because she needed both hands to lift it up. When he saw what it was he stood still in shock. Only a mad idiot would give a loaded gun to a child!



1. Answer these questions about the text with full sentences.

a) Where was the visitor from?

.....

b) What did Anik-Re want to do?

.....

c) Why did Anik-Re want to do that?

.....

.....

d) Why didn’t Anik-Re do it?

.....

.....

e) Why did Anik-Re pretend to be Kirsti Makkenninen

.....

.....

f) What was Anik-Re’s final argument?

.....

.....



2. What are the following parts of the body? The letters are mixed up.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| a) hourellds | | f) regnif | |
| b) dhan | | g) mar | |
| c) arhi | | h) eckn | |
| d) yee | | i) rotath | |
| e) kene | | | |



3. Look at the English words in context. Underline or highlight what you think is the most suitable German translation.

- | | | |
|------------|---------------------|--|
| a) Line 1 | came into existence | (<i>existierte • entstand • kam zum Einsatz</i>) |
| b) Line 1 | meadow | (<i>Acker • Flußaue • Weide</i>) |
| c) Line 2 | appear | (<i>erscheinen • auftreten • aussehen</i>) |
| d) Line 4 | past | (<i>vorbei • früher • Vergangenheit</i>) |
| e) Line 4 | alone | (<i>einzig • allein • einsam</i>) |
| f) Line 6 | lighted | (<i>angezündet • entflammt • beleuchtet</i>) |
| g) Line 9 | race | (<i>Rasse • rennen • Wettrennen</i>) |
| h) Line 14 | trigger | (<i>einleiten • Ablöser • Abzug</i>) |
| i) Line 24 | paper | (<i>Abhandlung • Papier • Zeitung</i>) |
| j) Line 31 | message | (<i>Aussage • Mitteilung • Information</i>) |
| k) Line 45 | responsible | (<i>mündig • haftbar • verantwortlich</i>) |
| l) Line 45 | applications | (<i>Bewerbungen • Anträge • Gebrauch</i>) |
| m) Line 46 | position | (<i>Lage • Einstellung • Stelle</i>) |
| n) Line 50 | right | (<i>gleich • rechts • richtig</i>) |
| o) Line 53 | disturbed | (<i>verwirrt • beunruhigt • gestört</i>) |
| p) Line 54 | present | (<i>Geschenk • Gegenwart • Schenkung</i>) |
| q) Line 56 | back | (<i>Rücken • zurück • Kehrseite</i>) |
| r) Line 59 | still | (<i>ruhig • unbewegt • immer noch</i>) |



4. Fill in the simple past forms of the verbs in brackets. They are all in the text.

I (a. hear) a bang and the car
 (b. stop) I (c. get) out of the car and
 (d. check) the engine. I (e. see) lots of
 smoke. I (f. be) shocked. I had forgotten my mobile phone so I
 (g. must) walk to the next house. I (h. tell)
 the people there about my breakdown (*Panne*) and (i. use) their
 telephone. Then I (j. return) to my car.



5. What do you think these words mean in German?

- a) careless
- b) fearless
- c) spotless
- d) brainless
- e) senseless
- f) ageless
- g) priceless
- h) worthless
- i) speechless



6. Compound words (*zusammengesetzte Wörter*). Fill in the missing word to form new words.

- a) atomic
- b) black
- c) front
- d) mineral
- e) practical
- f) quantum
- g) scientific
- h) stone

ete Oldham: Fantastisch gut lesen – Englisch Klasse 8–10
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