

# SPEAK GERMAN

Simplified German Grammar for Beginners



Dave Hart





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DER STRAND  
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DIE SPIELVERABREDUNG  
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## The gender of German nouns – Das Genus der deutschen Substantive

What is the noun?

The noun is used to name a person, a thing or an object: 🧒 Boy, ✉ Letter  
🪑 Chair etc. Nouns always have different genders, so there are 3 genders in German.

- **Der** Maskulin (Masculine)
- **Die** Feminin (Feminine)
- **Das** Neutral (Neuter)

These nouns can be identified by **the definite article (die bestimmten Artikeln)** These articles are the equivalents of ('the' in English) which are different for each gender:

<b>der</b> for masculine nouns	Der Mann	(the man)
<b>die</b> for female nouns	Die Frau	(the woman)
<b>das</b> for neuter nouns	Das Kind	(the child)

- Neuter nouns which are equivalents of ('it' in English) can be masculine, feminine or neuter in German:

Note: All nouns in German always start with a capital

**Beispiel (example):**

der Stuhl	🪑	the chair
das Buch	📖	the book
die Tür	🚪	the door

**Tip:** You should learn the gender (Der, Das, Die ) when you learn a new noun.



## Personal pronouns – Personalpronomen

What are personal pronouns?

The personal pronouns are used to replace people or things.

**Beispiel (example):**

Sara lernt Deutsch. **Sie** lernt Deutsch

Sara learns German. **She** learns German

There are 3 pronouns of 'sie'  
= she =they = you, formal.

The personal pronouns in German:

Person	Form
1. Person Singular (first person)	<b>ich</b> I
2. Person Singular (Second person)	<b>du</b> you
3. Person Singular (Third person)	<b>er</b> he (Maskulin)
	<b>sie</b> she (Feminin)
	<b>es</b> it (Neutral)
1. Person Plural	<b>wir</b> we
2. Person Plural	<b>ihr</b> you
3. Person Plural	<b>sie</b> they
Höflichkeitsform (Polite or formal)	<b>Sie</b> you

As you can see in the table, German has different ways for addressing people.

- Use **du** (Singular) and **ihr** (Plural) for friends, children and relatives.
- Use **Sie (singular and plural)** with a capital letter for people whom you do not know well or whom you would address by 'Mr' or 'Mrs'.

## Articles in singular and plural – Artikeln im Singular und Plural

All nouns in German have articles which stand before them. There are two kinds of articles.

- Definiter / bestimmter Artikel (definite article)
- Indefiniter / unbestimmter Artikel (indefinite article)

What is the definite and indefinite articles?

In English the **definite article** is the word 'the' for both singular and plural nouns. We use (the) to indicate that the identity of the noun is known to the reader.

In **German**, as we have seen in the lesson of nouns, the definite articles for singular nouns are:

- **der** before masculine noun.    Der Schrank    the cupboard
- **die** before feminine noun.    Die Lampe    the lamp
- **das** before neuter noun.    Das Bild    the picture

For plural nouns, these three genders (der, das, die) become **(die)**...

Beispiel (example):

	Singular	Plural
○ Maskulin	der Mann (the man)	die Männer (the men)
○ Feminin	die Frau (the woman)	die Frauen (the women)
○ Neutral	das Kind (the child)	die Kinder (the children)



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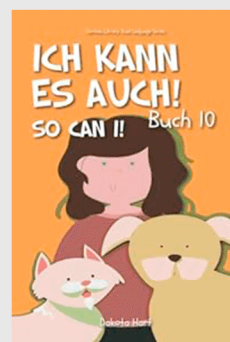
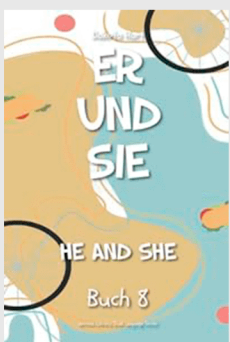
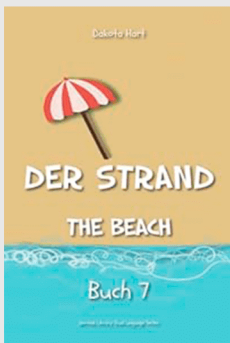


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We use the **indefinite article** like (*a, an*) in English before a noun that is general or when its identity is not known. As there are 3 definite articles in German, we also have 3 indefinite articles:

- **ein** before a masculine noun.    ein Stift  a pen
- **eine** before a feminine noun.    eine Brille  a glasses
- **ein** before a neuter noun.        ein Buch  a book

Beispiel (example):

Das ist **ein Mann**.  Here we are not talking about a particular man  
 (This is man)

**Der Mann** liest ein Buch    (The man reads a book)



Here we are talking about a particular person

**Note: We do not always use the indefinite article in the plural form**

Ergänzen Sie die Tabelle mit unbestimmten Artikeln!

Complete the table with indefinite articles!

	Bestimmter Artikel	Unbestimmter Artikel
○ Maskulin	der Mann (the man)	..... Mann
○ Feminin	die Frau (the woman)	..... Frau
○ Neutral	das Kind (the child)	..... Kind



## The verb - Das Verb

What is a verb?

Verbs are words that shows what a person or any other subject is doing:

‘Er **spielt** Fußball.’ (He **plays** football)

‘Ich **lese** ein Buch.’ (I **read** a book)

It can also show a state: ‘Sie **ist** traurig.’ (She **is** sad)

- In German we have the full form of the verb which is called ‘**infinitiv**’ (infinitive).
- Most of infinitive verbs end in ‘**-en**’ as in ‘**gehen**’ (to go), ‘**kommen**’ (to come). Some other verbs end in ‘**-eln**’ as in ‘**handeln**’ (to act), ‘**wechseln**’ (to change).

**Beispiel (example):**

The verb stem is the infinitive form without -en or -n.

(infinitiv) The verb in infinitive form	(Verbstamm) Verb stem + (Endung ) verb ending
gehen (to go)	geh+en
kommen (to come)	Komm+en
wohnen (to live)	wohn+en
wechseln (to change)	wechsel+n

## Verb variation – Verbvariation

### Regelmäßige / Schwache Verben (Regular / weak verbs)

The regular verbs in German always have the same verb ending. When we conjugate the regular verbs, we change only the verb ending ‘-en or ‘-n’.

How to conjugate the verbs?

Ex: kommen (to come)

Drop the verb ending ‘-en’ then add new ending to the verb stem.

### Verbkonjugation (Verb conjugation):

The verbs are conjugated by the Subject.

Here you can see an example of the verb ‘kommen’ in present tense:

Subject pronouns	Verb ending	Verb conjugation
ich (I)	-e	Komme
du (you, informal)	-st	Kommst
er/sie/es (he/she/it)	-t	Kommt
wir (we)	-en	Kommen
ihr (you, plural, informal)	-t	Kommt
sie (they)	-en	Kommen
Sie (you, Singular/plural, formal)	-en	Kommen

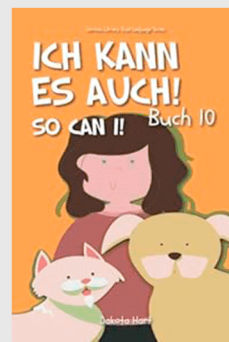
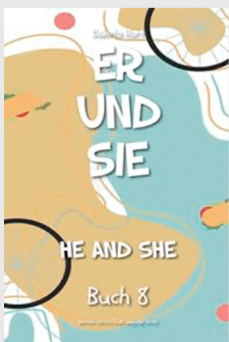
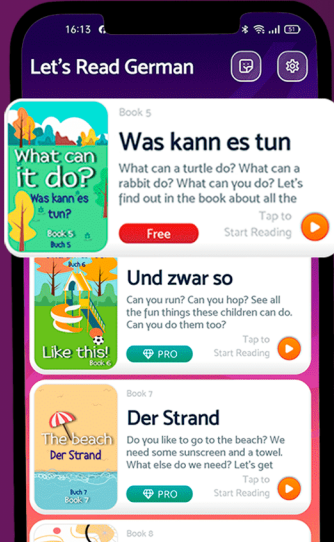
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**Übung (exercise):**

Ergänzen das Verb in der richtigen Form.  
(Complete the verb in the correct form.)

	konjugation präsens: Verb <b>machen</b> (to make)
<b>ich</b>	
<b>du</b>	
<b>er/sie/es</b>	
<b>wir</b>	
<b>ihr</b> (plural informal)	
<b>sie/Sie</b>	

	konjugation präsens: Verb <b>gehen</b> (to go)
<b>ich</b>	
<b>du</b>	
<b>er/sie/es</b>	
<b>wir</b>	
<b>ihr</b> (plural informal)	
<b>sie/Sie</b>	




## Irregular / strong verbs - Unregelmäßige / Starke Verben


In this kind of verbs, we change the **vowel** in the stem of the verb in the second and third person singular (**du, er, sie, es**). The plural is conjugated the same as the regular verbs. The following table shows the changes.

Vokalwechsel  
(Vowel change)


Das Verb	Verbkonjugation im präsens	
geben (to give)	ich gebe du gibst er/sie/es gibt	I give you give he/she/it gives
sprechen (to speak)	ich spreche du sprichst er/sie/es spricht	I speak you speak he/she/it speaks
lesen (to read)	ich lese du liest er/sie/es liest	I read you read he/she/it reads
sehen (to see)	ich sehe du siehst er/sie/es sieht	I see you see he/she/it sees
fahren (to drive)	ich fahre du fährst er/sie/es fährt	I drive you drive he/she/it drives
lassen (to let)	ich lasse du lässt er/ sie/ es lässt	I let you let he/she/it lets



Von e nach i



Von e nach ie



von a nach ä

## Verbs: haben and sein

The verbs **'haben'** (to have) and **'sein'** (to be) are the most important and common verbs in German.

The verb **'haben'** is irregular verb as the verb (to have) in English.

Examples:

Ich **habe** zwei Kinder. (I have two children)

Sie **hat** ein Auto. (She has a car)

Wir **haben** ein Unterricht. (We have a class)

The verb conjugated in present as follows:

	konjugation präsens: Verb haben	
<b>ich</b>	<b>habe</b>	I have
<b>du</b>	<b>hast</b>	you have
<b>er/sie/es</b>	<b>hat</b>	he/she/it has
<b>wir</b>	<b>haben</b>	we have
<b>ihr</b> (plural informal)	<b>habt</b>	you have
<b>sie</b>	<b>haben</b>	they have
<b>Sie</b> (formal)	<b>haben</b>	you have

### Übung (exercise):

**Verwende das verb 'haben' in der richtigen Form!**  
**(Use the verb 'sein' in the correct form!)**

1. Er ..... eine Katze.
2. Sara ..... ein Auto.
3. Ich ..... eine Schwester
4. Susanne und Peter ..... zwei Kinder
5. Wir .... eine neue Wohnung.

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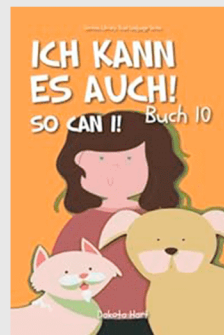
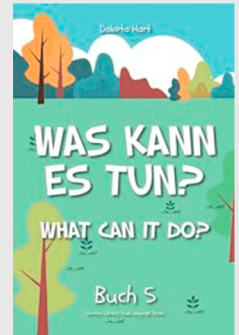
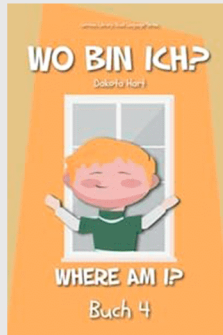
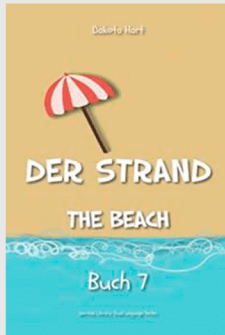
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The verb **'Sein'** is irregular verb as the verb (to be) in English.

Examples:

Ich **bin** Student. (I **am** a student)  
 Es **ist** leicht. (It **is** easy)  
**Seid** Ihr verheiratet? (**Are** you married)

The verb conjugated in present as follows:

	konjugation präsens: Verb sein	
<b>ich</b>	<b>bin</b>	I am
<b>du</b>	<b>bist</b>	you are
<b>er/sie/es</b>	<b>ist</b>	he/she/it is
<b>wir</b>	<b>sind</b>	we are
<b>ihr</b> (plural informal)	<b>seid</b>	you are
<b>sie</b>	<b>sind</b>	they are
<b>Sie</b> (formal)	<b>sind</b>	you are

**Übung (exercise):**

**Verwende das verb 'Sein' in der richtigen Form!**  
 (Use the verb 'sein' in the correct form!)

1. Ich ..... 15 Jahre alt. Wie alt ..... du?
2. Es .... schwer.
3. Er ..... Lehrer.
4. Welcher Tag ..... heute?
5. Meine Eltern .... Sehr nett.



## Separable verbs – Trennbare Verben

What is a separable verb?

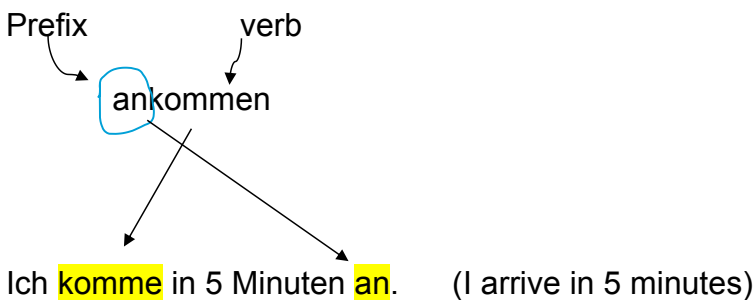
Some verbs in German have two parts: a **prefix** added to an **infinitive verb** in order to change the meaning of the main verb.

'trennbar' adjective comes from the verb 'trennen' in German which means (to separate) because the prefix is separated and goes to the end of the clause or the sentence.

Beispiel (example):

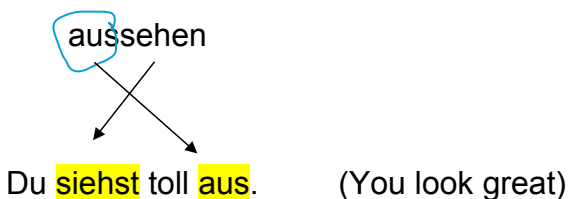
the verb 'kommen' (to come) ...

if we add the prefix 'an', it will change the meaning to 'ankommen' (to arrive).



the verb 'sehen' (to see)...

if we add the prefix 'aus', it will change the meaning to 'aussehen' (to look/look like).



## The imperative – Der Imperativ

What is the imperative?

We use imperative to express a request, an instruction or a command in **direct speech** (when you talk to somebody directly).

Ex:

Lesen Sie die Sätze! (Read the sentences!)

Öffne die Tür! (Open the door!)

How to form the imperative?

The verb comes in first position as in English. There are 3 different forms of imperative depending on whether it is **Singular** or **Plural**. Imperative is used when you speak directly to someone, so we use **the second person**.

“du ” (2. Person Singular)
“ihr” (2. Person plural)
“Sie” Höflichkeitsform (Singular und Plural)

- Use “du” form for singular as the verb conjugated in present, then drop “**du**” and the ‘-st’ ending.

**Beispiel (example):**

**du machst** → Mach!

Mach die Hausaufgabe! (Make the homework!)

**du kommst** → Komm!

Komm hier ! (Come here!)

- Use “ihr” form for plural as the verb conjugated in present, then remove only the word “**ihr**” and keep the ‘-t’ ending.

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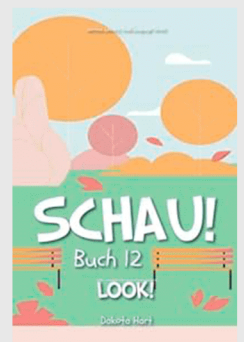


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**Beispiel (example):**

**Ihr** macht → Macht!

Macht die Hausaufgabe! (Make the homework!)

**Ihr** kommt → Kommt!

Kommt hier! (Come here!)

- Use 'Sie' form (for both singular or plural formal) as the verb conjugated in present. Swap the positions only

**Beispiel (example):**

**Sie** machen → Machen Sie!

Machen Sie die Hausaufgabe! (make the homework!)

**Sie** Kommen → Kommen Sie!

Kommen Sie hier! (Come here!)

**Übung (exercise): Bilde den Imperativ! (form the imperative!)**

Infinitiv	du	Ihr	Sie
<b>Kaufen</b>	Kauf!	.....	.....
<b>gehen</b>	.....	.....	Gehen Sie!
<b>sagen</b>	.....	Sagt!	.....
<b>trinken</b>	.....	.....	.....



## Questions – Fragen

It is very simple in German to make a question. In German, there are two types of questions.

- **Ja oder Nein** Frage (Yes or no question)

In a normal sentence, the verb comes in **position 2**. With yes/no question, the verb is in **position 1**. In this type of questions, we answer with Ja/Nein (yes/no).

Zum Beispiel (For example):

Du wohnst in Berlin. (You live in Berlin.)

Frage (question): Wohnst du in Berlin?  
(Do you live in Berlin?)

*We use 'nicht' to  
negative the sentence*

**Antworten (Answers):**

Ja, ich wohne in Berlin / Nein, ich wohne **nicht** in Berlin.  
(Yes, I live in Berlin/ No, I do not live in Berlin)

- **W-Fragen** (W-questions)

It is the same as yes/no questions but we only add the question word at **the first position** before the verb.

Beispiel (example):

question word   verb   subject

**Wo**        wohnst    du?    (Where do you live?)

**Wie**        heißen    Sie?    (What is your name?)

Here is a list of question words.

Was?	What?
Wo?	Where?
Wie?	How?
Woher?	Where from?
Wohin?	Where to?
Wann?	When?
Wer?	Who?
Warum?	Why?
Wie viel?	How much?
Wie viele?	How many?
Wie lange?	How long?
Wie oft?	How often?

### Übung (exercise):

Schreib die richtige W-Frage.  
(Write the correct question word.)

1. .... machst du? (what are you doing?)
2. .... heißen Sie? (What is your name?)
3. .... Kommen Sie? (Where are you from?)
4. .... lernst du Deutsch? (Why do you learn German?)
5. .... wohnt er? (Where does he live)

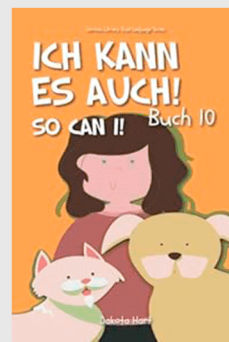
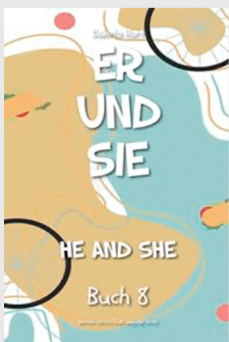
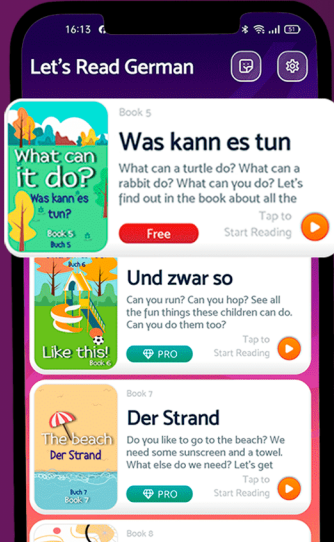
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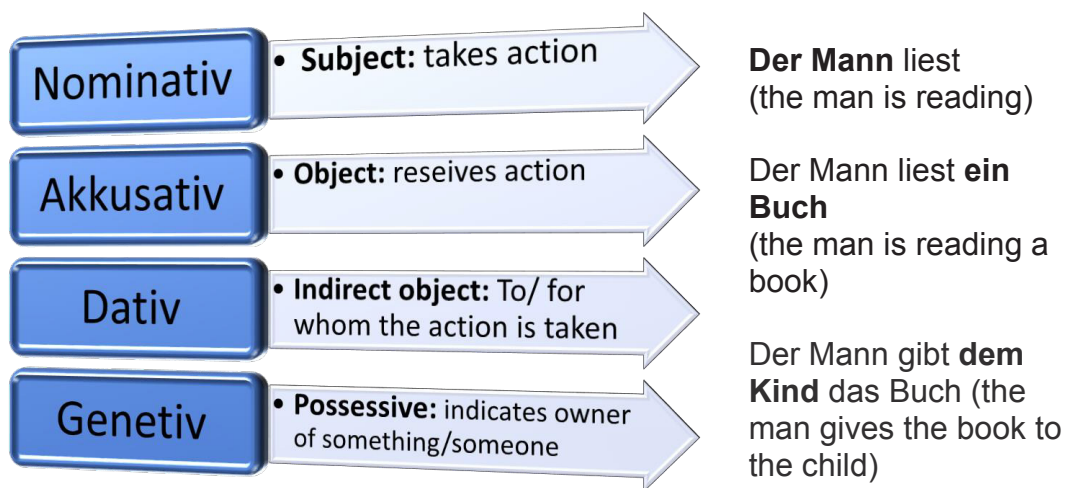


## The four cases – Die vier Fälle

Was sind die Kasus/ Fälle? (What are the cases?)

Nouns always have different roles in the sentence. The noun can act as a subject, object, indirect object, or a possession. The case shows the function of a noun or pronoun in a sentence.

There are four cases in German:



Das Buch **des Mannes** (the man's book)

**Beispiel (example):**

Der Ehemann    der Nachbarin    gibt    dem Kind    das Geschenk.  
Subject                      Genetiv                      verb                      indirect object                      object  
Nominativ                      Genetiv                      Dativ                      Akkusativ

The neighbor's husband gives the gift to the child.

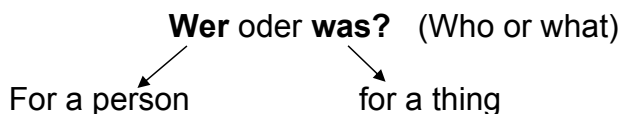
This example includes the four cases together.



## The nominative case – Der Nominativ

What is the nominative case?

The nominative is the original form for nouns and pronouns. We use the nominative case to show the subject in the sentence that answers the question:



**Beispiel (example):**

Das kind spielt Fußball.

**Wer** spielt Fußball? **Das Kind** (Who is playing football? The child)

Das Haus ist groß. (The house is big)

**Was** ist groß? **Das Haus** (What is big? The house)

The answers: 'das Kind' and 'das Haus' are **nominative** that indicates the subject of the sentence – the person or the thing that is doing the action

Nominative is also used with certain verbs:

**Besispiel:**

➤ **'sein'** (to be)

Er **ist** Lehrer. (He is a teacher)

➤ **'werden'** (to become):

Sara **wird** 20 Jahre alt. (Sara will become 20 years old)

Artikeln im **Nominativ** (articles in the nominative case)

Geschlecht (Gender)	Definitiver Artikel	Indefinitiver Artikel
Maskulin	<b>der</b>	<b>ein</b>
<b>Feminin</b>	<b>die</b>	<b>eine</b>
Neutral	<b>das</b>	<b>ein</b>
Plural	<b>die</b>	-

### Übung (exercise):

Lesen Sie die Sätze und ergänzen Sie die Artikel- Tabelle!  
(Read the sentences and complete the article table!)

1. Der Man liest ein Buch.
2. Die Frau trinkt Tee.
3. Das Kind spielt mit dem Ball.
4. Die Eltern fahren nach Berlin.

Geschlecht (Gender)	Nominativ
Maskulin	der
<b>Feminin</b>	....
Neutral	d..
Plural	d...

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WAS KANN ES TUN?  
 WHAT CAN IT DO?  
 Buch 5

ER UND SIE  
 HE AND SHE  
 Buch 8

KEINE ZEIT!  
 NO TIME!  
 Buch 16

UND ZWAR SO!  
 LIKE THIS!  
 Buch 6

ICH KANN ES AUCH!  
 SO CAN I!  
 Buch 10

SCHAU!  
 LOOK!  
 Buch 12

## The accusative – Der Akkusativ

What is the accusative case?

We use the accusative case to show the **direct object** in a sentence (the receiver of an action). It answers the question: **Wen oder was?** (Whom or what?)

**Akkusativ = direktes Objekt**

Beispiel (example):

Frage (question): Was hast du? (What do you have?)

Antwort (answer): Ich habe **einen Computer** (I have a computer)  
 Sub verb object  
 Nom Akk

Here you can see, the object is 'einen Computer' in **accusative**.

Definiter Artikel im Akkusativ (definite articles in the accusative case)

Geschlecht (Gender)	Nominativ	Akkusativ
Maskulin	der	den
Feminin	die	die
Neutral	das	das
Plural	die	die

Indefiniter Artikel im Akkusativ (indefinite articles in the accusative case)

Geschlecht (Gender)	Nominativ	Akkusativ
Maskulin	ein	einen
Feminin	eine	eine
Neutral	ein	ein

- If you notice the table in the masculine nouns:
  - (In definite articles) der changes to **den**
  - (In indefinite articles) ein changes to **einen**

For the other genders, the articles are the same as **nominative**.

### When to use accusative?

➤ A sentence with a direct object  
Sara liebt **den Hund** (Sara loves the dog)

➤ After specific verbs.  
e.g.: besuchen, haben, kennen + **Akk**

Er **besucht ein Museum**. (He visits a museum)

- After specific prepositions
  - für (for)
  - ohne (without)
  - durch (through)
  - gegen (around, against)

e.g.:

Sie fahren **durch die Stadt**.  
(They drive through the city)

Das Buch ist **für den Lehrer**. (The book is for the teacher.)

These verbs always need a direct object. Eg.: the verb 'besuchen' (to visit). It requires an object to complete the sentence (I have to visit something) 😊



## The dative case – Der Dativ

Der Dativ einer der 4 deutschen Fälle.

German has four cases:

- NOMINATIV which is the subject
- AKKUSATIV which is the direct object
- **DATIV (Indirect object)**
- GENETIV which indicates possession

Beispiel: Ich gebe dem Kind ein Geschenk

Ex: I give a present to the child

Sub	Object	Indirect object
Nom	AKK	Dativ

Der Dativ = das indirekte Objekt des Satzes

We use the dative case to show the indirect object of the verb that answers the question: to/ for whom action is taken. Indirect objects are the people, places and things in a phrase that receive the action. For instance, in the sentence “I give a present to the child”, “the child” is indirect object because “I” (the subject) acts upon “the present” (the direct object)

### Definiter Artikel im Dativ (definite articles in the dative case)

Geschlecht (Gender)	Nominativ	Akkusativ	Dativ
Maskulin	der	den	dem
Feminin	die	die	der
Neutral	das	das	dem
Plural	die	die	den

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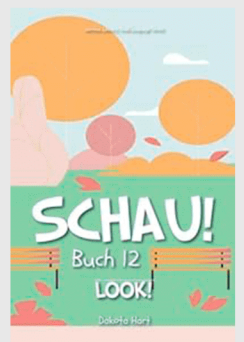
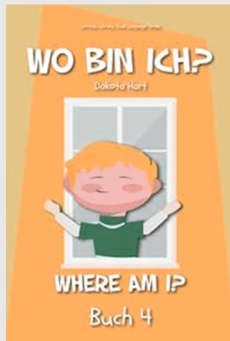
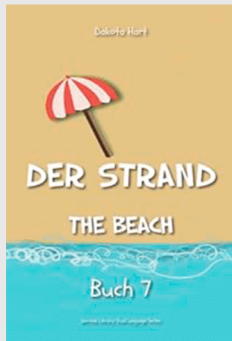


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**Indefiniter Artikel im Dativ (indefinite articles in the dative case)**

Geschlecht (Gender)	Nominativ	Akkusativ	Dativ
Maskulin	ein	einen	<b>einem</b>
<b>Feminin</b>	eine	eine	<b>einer</b>
Neutral	ein	ein	<b>einem</b>

**When to use Dative?**

- Sentence with more than one object (direct object and indirect object)  
ex: Der Mann gibt **der Frau** einen Brief
- After specific verbs (≈ 50 verbs)  
ex: the verb **helfen** + Dativ  
Der man hilft **der Frau** (The man helps the woman)  
Sie hilft **dem Kind** (She helps the child)

**Übung (exercise):**

Lesen Sie die Sätze und ergänzen Sie die Artikel- Tabelle!  
(Read the sentences and complete the article table!)

1. Der Student gibt dem Lehrer den Brief.
2. Die Frau kauft der Tochter die Blume.
3. Das Kind schenkt dem Mädchen das Geschenk.
4. Die Eltern lesen den Kindern die Geschichten vor.

Geschlecht (Gender)	Nominativ	Akkusativ	Dativ
Maskulin	.....	.....	dem
<b>Feminin</b>	die	die	....
Neutral	....	....	....
<b>Plural</b>	.....	....	den

## The genitive case – Der Genetiv

We use genitive to show possession as the word 'of' in English or by adding an apostrophe 's', e.g.: the kid's toy.

**Beispiel (example):**

Das ist **das Spielzeug des Kindes** (This is the child's toy)

Here the toy belongs to the kid. When we ask about the possession, we use the question word 'wessen' (whose).

**Beispiel:** Wessen Spielzeug ist das? (Whose toy is this?)

In spoken German, we do not often use **Genitive**. To avoid genitive, you can use the preposition 'von + Dativ' which is similar to the word 'of in English' e.g. Das Spielzeug von dem Kind.

### Definitiver Artikel im Genetiv (definite articles in the genitive case)

Geschlecht (Gender)	Nominativ	Akkusativ	Dativ	Genetiv
Maskulin	der	den	dem	<b>des</b>
Feminin	die	die	der	<b>der</b>
Neutral	das	das	dem	<b>des</b>
Plural	die	die	den	<b>der</b>

### Indefinitiver Artikel im Genetiv (indefinite articles in the genitive case)

Geschlecht (Gender)	Nominativ	Akkusativ	Dativ	Genetiv
Maskulin	ein	einen	einem	<b>eines</b>
Feminin	eine	eine	einer	<b>einer</b>
Neutral	ein	ein	einem	<b>eines</b>

In masculine and neuter we add an **ending ‘-es’** to the nouns with one syllable (**der Mann** → **des Mannes**)

And only ‘-s’ to nouns with two syllables or more (**der Computer** → **des Computers**).

We also use genitive after certain prepositions. e.g

- Wegen (because), während (during), trotz (despite), außerhalb (outside).

Sie wohnen **außerhalb der Stadt.** (He lives outside the city)

Ich bliebe **wegen des schlechten Wetters** zu Hause.  
(I stayed home because of the bad weather.)

### Übung (exercise):

Bilden Sie den Genitiv wie im Beispiel unten.  
Form the genitive as in the example below.

Beispiel:

Das Auto/ die Eltern

**Das Auto der Eltern**

1. Das Fenster/ das Haus
2. Das Futter/ die Katze
3. Das Kleid/ das Mädchen
4. Das Buch/ die Studentin
5. Die Strahlen/ die Sonne

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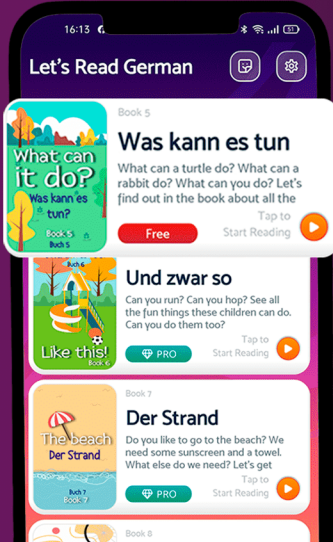
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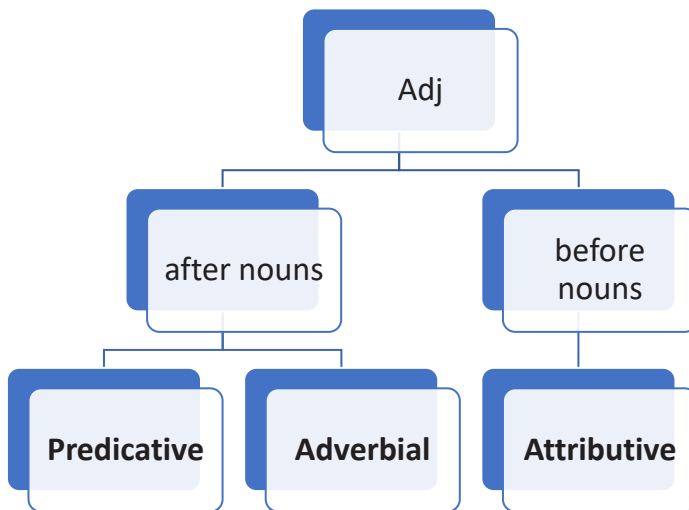
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## The adjectives – die Adjektive

What are the adjectives?

Adjectives are words that describe a noun or pronoun and give us more information about a person, place or thing. e.g., **Das Auto ist neu**. (The car is **new**). There are 3 types of adjectives...



- Prädikative Adjektive (**Predicative adjectives**): this kind of adjectives come after certain verbs e.g. **Sein** (to be), **bleiben** (to stay) and **werden** (to become).  
**Beispiel:** Das Essen **ist** **lecker** (The food is delicious)
- Adverbiale Adjektive (**Adverbial adjectives**): These adjectives come after verbs and they are the same as the adverbs in English which **describe the verbs**.  
**Beispiel:** Das Essen riecht **gut** (The food smells good)

- Attributive Adjektive (**Attributive adjectives**): describe only the nouns and come before nouns and after the articles. Here the adjective endings have to be **declined** according to the **case, number and gender**.

Beispiel: Das **leckere** Essen (The delicious food)

**Adjektivdeklination: definiter Artikel**

Geschlecht/ Kasus	Nominativ	Akkusativ	Dativ	Genitiv
<b>Maskulin</b>	der nette Mann	den netten Mann	dem netten Mann	des netten Mannes
<b>Feminin</b>	die nette Frau	die nette Frau	der netten Frau	der netten Frau
<b>Neutral</b>	das nette Kind	das nette Kind	dem netten Kind	des netten Kindes
<b>Plural</b>	die netten Leute	die netten Leute	den netten Leuten	der netten Leute

**Adjektivdeklination: indefiniter Artikel**

Geschlecht/ Kasus	Nominativ	Akkusativ	Dativ	Genitiv
<b>Maskulin</b>	ein netter Mann	einen netten Mann	einem netten Mann	eines netten Mannes
<b>Feminin</b>	eine nette Frau	eine nette Frau	einer netten Frau	einer netten Frau
<b>Neutral</b>	ein nettes Kind	ein nettes Kind	einem netten Kind	eines netten Kindes

## Possessive adjectives

What are possessive adjectives?

We use possessive adjectives to express who possesses sth or something belongs to somebody. In German, we call it '**Possessivartikel**' (possessive articles).

**Beispiel:**

**Mein** Laptop (**my** laptop), **ihre** Kinder (**her** children)

Ist das **dein** Buch?  (Is this **your** book?)

The possessive adjectives in German are as follows:

Subject pronouns	Possessive adjectives
ich (I)	mein (my)
du (you, informal)	dein (your)
er (he)	sein (his)
sie (she)	ihr (her)
es (it)	sein (its)
wir (we)	unser (our)
ihr (you, plural, informal)	euer (your)
sie (they)	ihr (their)
Sie (you, Singular/plural, formal)	Ihr (your)

*NOTE:: 'Ihr' always has a capital letter as 'Sie' formal*



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 Buch 6

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 SO CAN I!  
 Buch 10

**SCHAU!**  
 LOOK!  
 Buch 12



The endings change according to **gender** (Masculine, Feminine, or Neutral), **number** (Singular or plural) and **case** (Nominative, accusative, dative or genitive)

To make it easy: The endings of these possessive adjectives follow the same pattern of the indefinite article 'ein'.



Geschlecht (Gender)	Nominativ	Akkusativ	Dativ	Genitiv
Maskulin	ein	einen	einem	eines
Feminin	eine	eine	einer	einer
Neutral	ein	ein	einem	eines

### Possessivartikel im Nominativ, Akkusativ, Dativ und Genitiv

Geschlecht (Gender)	Nominativ das ist..	Akkusativ Ich sehe	Dativ mit ...	Genitiv das ist das Geschenk..
Maskulin	mein Vater	meinen Vater	meinem Vater	meines Vaters
Feminin	meine Mutter	meine Mutter	meiner Mutter	meiner Mutter
Neutral	mein Kind	mein Kind	meinem Kind	meines Kinds
Plural	meine Eltern	meine Eltern	meinen Eltern	meiner Eltern

Also so: dein-, sein-, ihr-, unser-, eu(e)r-, ihr-, Ihr-

Übung (exercise):

Ergänzen Sie die Lücken mit Possessivartikel.  
(Fill the gaps with the possessive article.)

Example: Ich habe einen Bruder. **Mein** Bruder ist 10 Jahre alt.  
(I have a brother. My brother is 10 years old.)

1. Wir haben ..... Auto verkauft. (We sold our car)
2. Hilfst du .... Mutter in der Küche? (do you help your mother in the kitchen?)
3. .... Haus ist schön (His house beautiful)
4. Ist das .... Handy? (Is this your phone?)
5. Sind das .... Taschen, Herr Müller? (Are these your bags, Mr. Müller?)

## Reflexive verbs - Reflexive Verben

What is a reflexive verb?

We use reflexive verbs when the Subject and the object are the same in a sentence **or** the person is doing the action to himself or herself.

For example:

Ich wasche **mich.** (I wash myself)

Here the object is a reflexive pronoun.

Ich wasche mein Auto. (I wash my car)

Here the subject and the object are not the same

In the first example (Ich wasche mich) the subject and the object are the same, that's why we use reflexive pronouns. The reflexive verbs consist of 2 parts: a verb and a **reflexive pronoun**

What are the reflexive pronouns?

The reflexive pronouns are words such as 'myself', 'yourself' which are reflecting back to the subject. They can be a **direct object** (in accusative case) or an **indirect object** (in a dative case).

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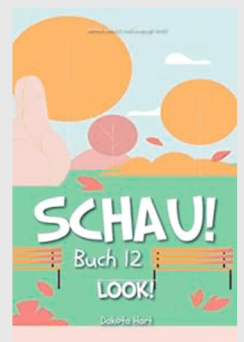


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Reflexive pronouns are as follows:

<b>Reflexivpronomen</b>		
<b>Subject pronouns (Nominativ)</b>	<b>Akkusativ</b>	<b>Dativ</b>
ich (I)	mich (myself)	mir (myself)
du (you, informal)	dich (yourself)	dir (yourself)
er/sie/es (he/she/it)	sich	(himself/herself/itself)
wir (we)	uns	(ourselves)
ihr (you, plural, informal)	euch	(yourselves)
sie (they)	sich	(themselves)
Sie (you, Singular/plural, formal)	sich	(yourself)



Most of reflexive verbs take the accusative pronouns:

**Beispiel:**

- **sich entschuldigen** (to apologize)

Ich entschuldige mich für die Verspätung.  
(I apologize for being late)

- **sich erholen** (to relax)

Möchten Sie sich erholen und entspannen?  
(Would you like to spend some time resting and relaxing?)

**sich umsehen** (to look around)

Man kann einfach reingehen und sich umsehen.  
(You can get inside and just look around.)

- **Sich erinnern** (to remember)

ich erinnere mich überhaupt nicht daran.  
(I don't remember it at all.)

**Übung (Exercise):**

Ergänzen Sie die Sätze mit dem richtigen Reflexivpronomen.  
(Complete the sentences with the correct reflexive pronoun)

1. Er interessiert ..... für die Wirtschaft
2. Sie entschuldigt ..... für die Verspätung.
3. Ich ziehe .... Schnell an.
4. Mein Kind wäscht ..... jeden Tag.
5. Mein Bruder duscht .....

## Negation

How to form a negative in German?

We simply negate the sentence by adding 'nicht' (not) to the verb or by using 'kein' (no, not a, or not any) as a negative article.

### ➤ When to use 'nicht'?

'Nicht' is used when we need to negate a verb, an adjective, possessive adjective or noun with definite article.

#### Verb:

Sie wohnt **nicht** in Berlin. (She does not live in Berlin.)

Er arbeitet **nicht**. (He does not work.)

#### Adjective:

Das Auto ist **nicht** neu (The car is not new)

#### Possessive adjective:

Das ist **nicht** mein Buch (This is not my book)

#### Nouns with definite articles:

Das ist **nicht** das beste Geschenk (This is not the best gift)

### ➤ When to use 'kein'?

'Kein' is used as a negative article when we negate nouns that have no articles or preceded by indefinite articles

#### Noun without articles:

Ich habe **keine** Kinder (I do not have children)

Ich habe **keine** Zeit. (I do not have time)

#### Noun with indefinite article:

Hast du ein Auto? Nein, ich habe **kein** Auto.

(Do you have a car? No, I do not have a car)

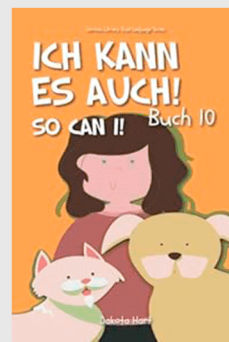
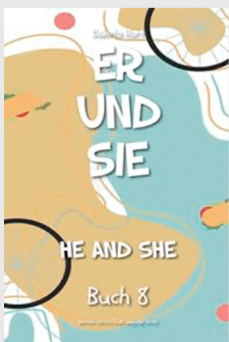
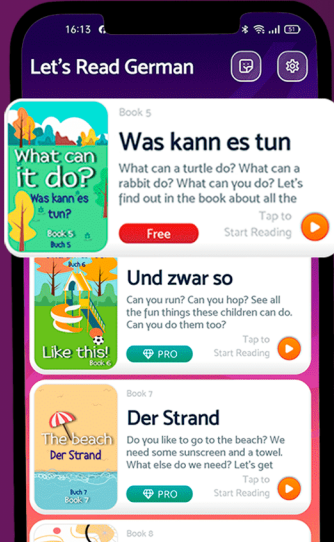
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'Kein' follows the same pattern of the indefinite article (**ein, eine, ein**)... the same as the possessive adjective 'mein'.

Geschlecht (Gender)	Nominativ	Akkusativ	Dativ	Genitiv
Maskulin	ein	einen	einem	eines
Feminin	eine	eine	einer	einer
Neutral	ein	ein	einem	eines

Geschlecht (Gender)	Nominativ	Akkusativ	Dativ	Genitiv
Maskulin	Kein Vater	keinen Vater	keinem Vater	keines Vaters
Feminin	keine Mutter	keine Mutter	keiner Mutter	keiner Mutter
Neutral	kein Kind	kein Kind	keinem Kind	keines Kinds
Plural	keine Eltern	keine Eltern	keinen Eltern	keiner Eltern

**Übung (Exercise):**

Turn these sentences into negative.

1. Ich komme aus Deutschland
2. Mein Vater hat ein Auto
3. Er ist müde
4. Meine Mutter ist Krank
5. Das ist mein Stift

## Modal verbs - Modalverben

What are modal verbs in German?

Modal verbs used to ask for permission or to express possibility, ability, necessity, etc. They are used as auxiliary verbs (helping verbs) with the main verb of the sentence together such as 'must' and 'should' in English.

The modal verb comes always in the second position, conjugated according to the subject and the main verb goes to the end of the sentence in infinitive form.

e.g. Ich **kann** nicht Englisch **sprechen**. (I cannot speak English)



Here we only conjugate the modal verb in the second position.

**There are 6 modal verbs in German:**

- Können (can/ to be able to)

Beispiel:

Ich **kann** gut Deutsch sprechen. (I can speak German well.)

Wegen des Wetters **konnten** wir nicht fahren.

(We couldn't drive because of the weather.)

Conjugated as follows:

Subject Pronoun	Present	Past Simple
ich	kann	konnte
du	kannst	konntest
er/sie/es	kann	konnte
wir	können	konnten
ihr (plural informal)	könnt	konntet
sie/Sie	können	konnten



- o dürfen (may/ to be allowed to)

Beispiel:

Hier **darf** man nicht rauchen. (It is not allowed to smoke here.)

Er **durfte** nicht Pause machen. (He wasn't allowed to take a break.)

Conjugated as follows:

Subject Pronoun	Present	Past Simple
ich	darf	durfte
du	darfst	durftest
er/sie/es	darf	durfte
wir	dürfen	durften
ihr (plural informal)	dürft	durftet
sie/Sie	dürfen	durften

- o müssen (to have to/must)

Beispiel:

Ich **muss** morgen früh aufstehen (I have to wake up early)

Er **musste** nach Hause gehen (He had to go to home)

Conjugated as follows:

Subject Pronoun	Present	Past Simple
ich	muss	musste
du	musst	musstest
er/sie/es	muss	musste
wir	müssen	mussten
ihr (plural informal)	müsst	musstet
sie/Sie	müssen	mussten

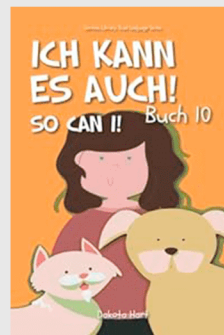
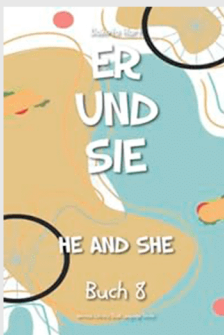
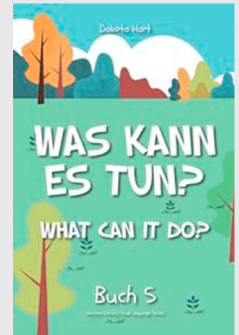
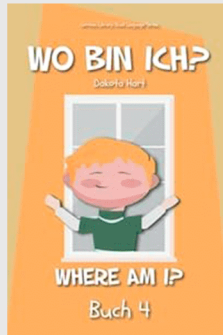
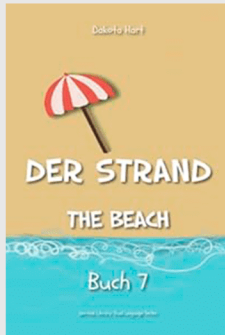
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- sollen (should, to be supposed to)

**Beispiel:**

Sara **soll** zu Hause bleiben, denn sie ist Krank  
 (Sara should stay at home because she is sick)

Du **solltest** nicht so viel essen (You shouldn't eat so much)

Conjugated as follows:

Subject Pronoun	Present	Past Simple
ich	soll	sollte
du	sollst	solltest
er/sie/es	soll	sollte
wir	sollen	sollten
ihr (plural informal)	sollt	solltet
sie/Sie	sollen	sollten

- wollen (want to)

**Beispiel:**

Ich **will** Deutsch lernen. (I want to learn German)

Das Kind **wollte** abends nicht ins Bett gehen  
 (The child did not want to go to bed at night)

Conjugated as follows:

Subject Pronoun	Present	Past Simple
ich	will	wollte
du	willst	wolltest
er/sie/es	will	wollte
wir	wollen	wollten
ihr (plural informal)	wollt	wolltet
sie/Sie	wollen	wollten

- mögen (to like)

**Beispiel:**

Ich mag Kaffee trinken. (I like drinking coffee.)

Conjugated as follows:

Subject Pronoun	Present	Past Simple
ich	mag	mochte
du	magst	mochtest
er/sie/es	mag	mochte
wir	mögen	mochten
ihr (plural informal)	mögt	mochtet
sie/Sie	mögen	mochten

## The perfect tense – Das Perfekt

We use the perfect tense as the past simple in English, when we talk about a completed action. It is commonly used in spoken language.

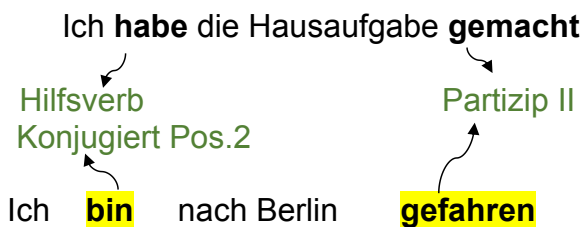
e.g

Präsens (present): Ich mache die Hausaufgabe (I do the homework)

Once the action is finished → Ich **habe** die Hausaufgabe **gemacht**  
(I did the homework)

### How to form it?

We use the verbs ‘haben’ and ‘sein’ as auxiliary or helping verbs conjugated at the second position and ‘Partizip II’ (past participle of the verb) at the end of a clause or a sentence



We use the conjugation of the verbs ‘haben’ and ‘sein’ in the present tense form as we have seen in lesson of **Verbs: haben and sein.**

### konjugation präsens: Verb haben

ich	habe
du	hast
er/sie/es	hat
wir	haben + <b>Partizip II (gemacht)</b>
ihr	habt
sie	haben
Sie (formal)	haben

If the main verb indicates a movement or changes a state, then we use the helping (auxiliary) verb ‘sein’ such as ‘gehen’ (to go), ‘kommen’ (to come), ‘fahren’ (to travel). All other verbs form the perfect with ‘haben’



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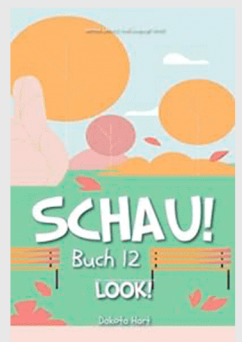


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**konjugation präsens: Verb sein**

ich	bin	
du	bist	
er/sie/es	ist	
wir	sind	+ <b>Partizip II (gefahren)</b>
ihr	seid	
sie	sind	
Sie (formal)	sind	

**How to form 'Partizip II' (the past participle)?**

As you have seen in the lesson of **Verbs**, some verbs are regular and some are irregular.

- o With regular verbs: add 'ge-' at the beginning of the verb stem and '-t' at the end. If the verb stem ends with '-t', add 'et'

<b>Infinitive</b>	<b>past participle</b>
machen	gemacht
spielen	gespielt
arbeiten	gearbeitet

- o With irregular verbs: add 'ge-' at the beginning of the verb stem and '-en' at the end

<b>Infinitive</b>	<b>past participle</b>
schreiben	geschrieben
lesen	gelesen
fahren	gefahren

- o Verbs that end in '-ieren' such as 'telefonieren' (to call) we add only '-t' to the end of the verb stem.

telefonieren	telefoniert
informieren	informiert

## The Past tense - Imperfekt / Präteritum

'**Präteritum**' refers to the events that happened in the past as the perfect tense but it is used mostly in written language such as stories, novel, newspapers, etc.

### Beispiel:

Ich machte die Hausaufgabe (I did the homework)

Ich fuhr nach Berlin (I travelled to Berlin)

### How to conjugate verbs in 'Präteritum'?

For **regular/weak verbs**, drop the verb the ending '-en' and add the verb endings of 'Präteritum' as follows:

Subject pronouns	Verb ending	Verb conjugation: machten (made)
ich (I)	-te	machte
du (you, informal)	-test	machtest
er/sie/es (he/she/it)	-te	machte
wir (we)	-ten	machten
ihr (you, plural, informal)	-tet	machtet
sie (they)	-ten	machten
Sie (you, Singular/plural, formal)	-ten	machten

For **irregular verbs** the vowel changes in the verb stem as follows:

Subject pronouns	Verb conjugation: sahen (saw)
ich (I)	sah
du (you, informal)	sahest
er/sie/es (he/she/it)	sah
wir (we)	sahen
ihr (you, plural, informal)	saht
sie (they)	sahen
Sie (you, Singular/plural, formal)	sahen

'haben' and 'sein' are the most commonly used irregular verbs in 'Präteritum'. They are conjugated as follows:

Subject pronouns	hatten (had)	waren (was/were)
ich (I)	hatte	war
du (you, informal)	hattest	warst
er/sie/es (he/she/it)	hatte	war
wir (we)	hatten	waren
ihr (you, plural, informal)	hattet	wart
sie (they)	hatten	waren
Sie (you, Singular/plural, formal)	hatten	waren

### Übung (exercise):

Ergänzen das Verb in der richtigen Form.  
(Complete the verb in the correct form.)

	konjugation Präteritum: Verb <b>spielten</b> (played)
<b>ich</b>	
<b>du</b>	
<b>er/sie/es</b>	
<b>wir</b>	
<b>ihr</b> (plural informal)	
<b>sie/Sie</b>	



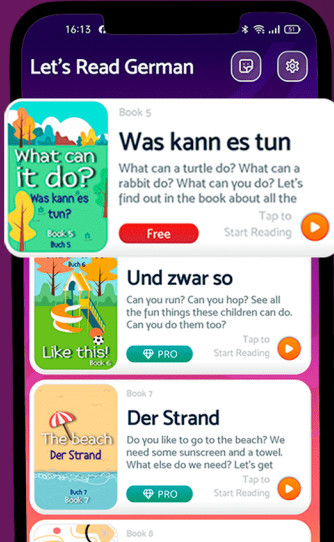
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## The Future tense – Das Futur

There are 2 ways to express future tense in German.

- The first way is by using the present simple tense with future time phrases.

### Beispiel:

Ich fahre **morgen** nach Berlin. (I am going to Berlin tomorrow)

Wir spielen **nächste Woche** Fußball. (We are going to play football next week)


- The second way is to use the verb ‘**werden**’ (will) which is an irregular verb and acts as auxiliary verb and the **infinitive** of the main verb. It follows the same pattern of the modal verbs. **Werden + infinitive**

The verb ‘werden’ is conjugated as follows:

	Verb: werden (will)
ich	werde
du	wirst
er/sie/es	wird
wir	werden
ihr (plural informal)	werdet
sie/Sie	werden

‘werden’ is conjugated in the second position according to the subject and the infinitive of the main verb goes to the end of the sentence or the clause.

### Beispiel:

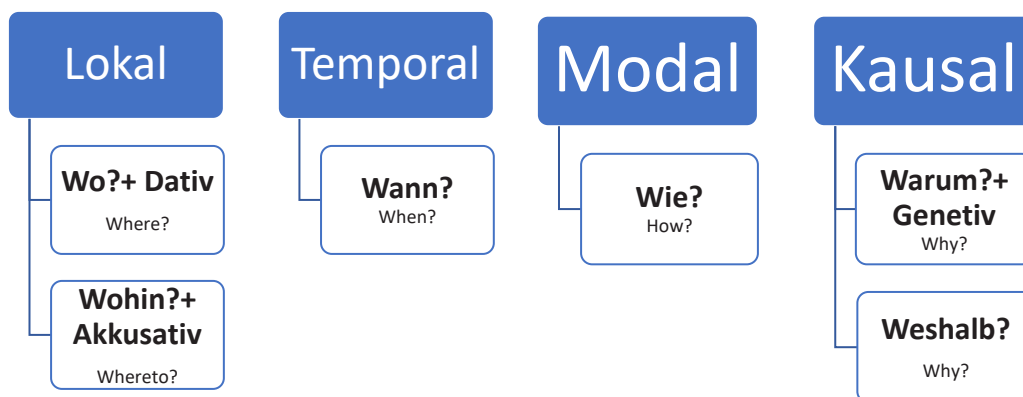

 Ich lerne Deutsch.      I will learn German  
 Ich rufe dich an.      Ich **werde** Deutsch **lernen**. I will learn German  
    Ich **werde** dich **anrufen** (I will call you)  
    Conjugated      infinitive  
    at the position.2

## Prepositions – Präpositionen

What is a preposition?

Prepositions are words used before nouns or pronouns such as 'in', 'on', 'at'. They can give us information about time, Place, manner, or a reason

There are different types of prepositions in German...



- **Lokal**: Präpositionen des Ortes (prepositions of place)

We use this type of preposition to answer the question?

**Wo/ Wohin(**where/whereto).

Beispiel:

an(beside), auf(on), hinter(behind), in(in), neben(next to), vor(in front of), unter(under)

Wo? + Dativ: Wo ist das Buch? Das Buch ist **auf dem Tisch**  
(Where is the book? The book is on the table)

Wohin? + Akkusativ: Wohin gehen Sie? Ich gehe **in die Schule**.  
(Where are you going? I am going to school.)

- **Temporal:** Präpositionen für Zeitangaben (Prepositions for time)

Here it is about time so it answers the question: **Wann? (when?)**

Beispiel:

gegen(around), in(in), nach(after), seit(since), um(at), von... bis(from...to)

Wann beginnt der Unterricht? Der Unterricht beginnt **um** 5 Uhr.  
(When does the class begin? The class begins at 5 a.m)

Sara arbeitet **von** Montag **bis** Freitag.  
(Sara works from Monday to Friday.)

- **Modal:** Präpositionen für die Art und Weise (Prepositions of manner)  
It answers the question: **Wie (how?)**

Beispiel:

Mit(with), ohne(without), gegen (against/ around)

Wie fahren Sie nach Berlin? **Mit dem** Bus fahre ich nach Berlin  
(How will you travel to Berlin? I'm going to Berlin by bus)

- **Kausal:** Präpositionen für Gründe und Ziele. (Prepositions of reason)  
Here it is about the reason so it answers the question: **Warum? Or weshalb? (Why?)**

Beispiel:

Aufgrund(because of), bezüglich(regarding), infolge(as a result,),  
laut(according to), trotz(in spite of), wegen(due to).

**Trotz** des Wetters arbeiten wir heute  
(In spite of the weather, we are working today)

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**Look down! Schau runter!**

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AS CLEVER AS ME!  
**SO SCHLAU WIE ICH!**  
 Buch 9

DER STRAND  
 THE BEACH  
 Buch 7

WO BIN ICH?  
 WHERE AM I?  
 Buch 4

DIE SPIELVERABREDUNG  
 THE PLAYDATE  
 Buch 11

WAS KANN ES TUN?  
 WHAT CAN IT DO?  
 Buch 5

ER UND SIE  
 HE AND SHE  
 Buch 8

KEINE ZEIT!  
 NO TIME!  
 Buch 16

UND ZWAR SO!  
 LIKE THIS!  
 Buch 6

ICH KANN ES AUCH!  
 SO CAN I!  
 Buch 10

SCHAU!  
 LOOK!  
 Buch 12

## Conjunctions and clauses

We use conjunctions as connecting words to connect two clauses or sentences together such as 'and', 'or', 'but'

There are two main groups of conjunctions in German:

- **Coordinating conjunctions:** used to connect two main clauses "Hauptsatz" and they do not affect the word order. They come in the position 0

Examples of these conjunctions:

**und** (and), **oder** (or), **denn** (because), **aber** (but)

<p>Hauptsatz (Substantive clause) clause)</p>	<p>Hauptsatz (Substantive</p>
<p>Mein Mann fährt nach Hamburg <b>und</b> ich bleibe zu Hause (My husband is going to Hamburg and I'm staying at home)</p>	
<p>Position: 0</p>	
<p>Ich lerne Deutsch, <b>denn</b> ich arbeite in Deutschland. (I learn German because I work in Germany)</p>	

- **Subordinate conjunctions:** used to connect 'Nebensatz' (subordinate clause). They come in the first position and send the verb to the end of a clause or a sentence.

Examples of these conjunctions:

'**weil/da**'(because), '**dass**' (that), '**wenn**'(when), '**ob**' (whether/ if)

<p>Hauptsatz</p>	<p>Nebensatz</p>
<p>Ich gehe zum Arzt, <b>weil</b> ich Krank <b>bin</b>. (I will go to the doctor because I am sick)</p>	



- If we start with 'Nebensatz' (subordinate clause), the sentence will be as follows:

**Weil** ich Krank bin, gehe ich zum Arzt



The whole subordinate clause becomes **one position**, so the verb 'gehe' comes in the second position.

- If we have two verbs in subordinate clause such as (the auxiliary verb or modal verb) and the main verb, the conjugated verb (auxiliary or modal) goes to the end of the clause.

**Beispiel:**

Ich habe Hunger, weil ich nichts gegessen **habe**.  
(I'm hungry because I haven't eaten anything)

## Word order

The basic word order in German for 'Hauptsatz' (the main clause/ a complete sentence):

subject verb direct object or other elements

Sara	mag	Pizza
Ich	lese	ein Buch

### Das Verb steht immer an Position. 2

Here you can see the verb is conjugated in the second position.

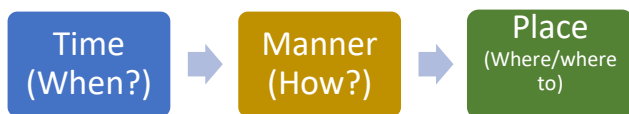
The word order in German is more flexible than in English e.g.

Wir fahren heute nach Berlin  
 Heute fahren wir nach Berlin  
 Nach Berlin fahren wir heute

### Basic rules:

- The verb is always in the second position.
- The subject can be either in first or third position so it has to be directly before or after the conjugated verb.
- The other elements can come before the conjugated verb if you want to emphasize on particular thing. e.g. **Mit dem Auto** fahre ich nach Berlin. (here to emphasize that I will travel **with car**)

### Sequencing of other elements:



The other elements follow the following order:

### Beispiel:

Ich fahre (I travel	heute today	mit dem Auto with the car	nach Berlin to Berlin)
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