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FORWARD

When you tell someone that you're learning German, you probably often hear one of these phrases:

- *"Wow, German is super hard to learn, right?"*
- *"Is the grammar really that difficult?"*
- *"That would be too hard for me!"*
- *"Why don't you learn Spanish or French instead? Those languages are a lot easier!"*

I'm sure you've heard at least one of these or something similar from friends or coworkers! Am I right?

In my opinion, they're wrong!

"German grammar is simple. It's just explained in a complicated way!"

Jan Richter – Founder of EasyDeutsch

The explanations on my website and in this eBook are all written from the perspective of the student. Therefore, I concentrate on the 95% of German grammar that follows simple rules and not the other 5% that most other grammar books focus on.



I avoid using unnecessary grammar terms that you don't need to understand how the language works.

With this eBook and my website, www.easy-deutsch.de, I have one goal.

My goal:

I want to prove that German grammar is simple and easy!

BEST FRIENDS

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YOU LEARN IN THIS EBOOK,
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IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

PARTS OF SPEECH

I avoid unnecessary grammar terms but knowing these parts of speech is essential.

Adjective		<i>schön, neu, alt, einfach, ...</i>
Adverb		<i>bald, hier, morgens, ...</i>
Article	Definite Article	<i>der, die, das, dem, ...</i>
	Indefinite Article	<i>ein, eine, einem, ...</i>
	Possessive Determiner	<i>mein, dein, sein, ...</i>
	Negative Article	<i>kein, keine, keinem, ...</i>
Conjunction	Demonstrative Article	<i>dieser, jener, ...</i>
	Coordinating	<i>denn, und, oder, ...</i>
Noun	Subordinating	<i>dass, weil, wenn, ...</i>
		<i>Computer, Buch, Frau, ...</i>
Particle		<i>sehr, denn, ja, mal, ...</i>
Preposition		<i>auf, aus, gegen, in, an, bei, ...</i>
Pronoun	Personal Pronoun	<i>ich, du, er, sie, es, ...</i>
	Possessive Pronoun	<i>meins, deins, unseres, ...</i>
	Reflexive Pronoun	<i>mich, mir, dich, dir, sich, ...</i>
	Relative Pronoun	<i>der, welche, was, ...</i>
	Demonstrative Pronoun	<i>dieser, jenes, der, die, ...</i>
Verb	Indefinite Pronoun	<i>man, etwas, niemand, ...</i>
	Main Verb	<i>lehren, lesen, kaufen, ...</i>
	Auxiliary Verb	<i>sein, haben, werden</i>
	Modal Verb	<i>können, müssen, sollen, ...</i>

If you don't know the difference between these parts of speech, I recommend looking at how you use them in your native language. It's usually the same as in German (for English it is!).

MEANINGS OF THE COLORS AND MARKINGS:

To better understand the explanations and visualize them, I use different colors for different things.

CASES

I use different colors for different cases and suggest using the same colors or developing your own color code. The colors will help you subconsciously learn which cases belong to which verbs and prepositions.

Case	Examples for your vocabulary list
Nominative	<i>sein, werden, bleiben</i>
Accusative	<i>für, um, durch, ...</i>
Dative	<i>helfen, gefallen, aus, mit, ...</i>
Genitive	<i>gedenken, bedürfen, während, außerhalb, ...</i>

Example:

- „*Ich* gebe *dir* den Schlüssel *meines* Hauses.“

POINT OF EMPHASIS

With the highlighted **blue** words, I want to emphasize which part of the sample sentence I am talking about.

Parts that are related but not the direct point of emphasis are **bolded**. If a second color marking is needed, I use **dark red**. (rare)

Example:

„*Ich* **werde** dir **helfen**, **nachdem** du den Müll **rausgebracht hast**.“



(Also see the lesson: Temporal Clauses)

PLEASE READ ME!

HOW TO WORK WITH THIS EBOOK?



The QR codes at the beginning of each lesson will take you to a video where I explain the grammar for the exercises. ATM some videos aren't published yet. You can watch the German only video on my German Youtube-Channel instead.



My ebook "DaF Grammar Trainer" provides you with exercises to every single topic I explain in this reference ebook.



This is a reference ebook. That means there is no fixed order for the lessons. The idea is that you check the topic at the moment you struggle with something or if you know that you are still struggling with certain topics and simply want to repeat them or try a new approach because you didn't get the system yet. And yes, there is a system behind everything!

Finally Master German grammar!

THE TRANSLATION FILE

I provide you with the **translation** of every single **sample phrase**. In my opinion, it's very important that you understand what the example means in order to understand the grammar. It's a separate file. Check it out whenever you struggle to understand the sample phrases.

IS THERE A PRINTED VERSION?

YES & NO!

YES, there is a printed GERMAN ONLY version of this ebook on [amazon.de](https://www.amazon.de). This means no English translations or explanations. It's made for more advanced students.

NO, there is no printed version of this ebook but you got it as a printer-friendly PDF file. You can simply print out the whole ebook or parts of it yourself.

ADJECTIVES

ADJECTIVES L1 – What is an Adjective?

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Do have to decline Adjectives?.....	35
More Examples	36
Adjective: "groß"	36
Task	36



Video Lesson:

<https://easy-deutsch.com/yt/adjectivesL1/>

WHAT IS AN ADJECTIVE?

Adjectives are "**describing words**". They assign characteristics to people and things, so they show what someone or something is like. You can ask about them with "Wie?" / "How?". You can intensify adjectives for comparisons.

- „Das ist ein Haus." // „Das ist ein **großes** Haus."



That is a house.



// That is a **big** house.

DO I HAVE TO DECLINE ADJECTIVES?

Short Answer: YES, but not always!

When adjectives come before a noun, you have to decline the adjective.

→ **That means they get an ending.**

Examples:

- „Der **junge** Mann lernt Deutsch.“
(The adjective "jung" comes before the noun "Mann" → Adjective declension)
- **But:** „Der Mann ist **jung**.“
(There is no noun behind "jung" → No adjective declension)

**Remember!**

The ending depends on the case and the article in front of the adjective.

MORE EXAMPLES

In German grammar, you have to decline any adjective in front of a noun.

ADJECTIVE: "groß"



- „Das ist ein **großes** Haus.“ – **das** Haus
- „Das ist ein **großer** Baum.“ – **der** Baum
- „Das ist eine **große** Katze.“ – **die** Katze

TASK

Can you see the pattern?

ADJECTIVES L2.1 – ADJECTIVE DECLENSION AFTER DEFINITE ARTICLES

Adjective Endings after Definite Articles.....	39
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Definite Article Words	39
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Video Lesson:

<https://easy-deutsch.com/yt/adjectivesL2-1/>

ADJECTIVE ENDINGS AFTER DEFINITE ARTICLES

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine	der schöne Mann	den schön en Mann	dem schön en Mann	des schön en Mannes
Feminine	die schön e Frau	die schön e Frau	der schön en Frau	der schön en Frau
Neuter	das schön e Haus	das schön e Haus	dem schön en Haus	des schön en Hauses
Plural	die schön en Männer	die schön en Männer	den schön en Männern	der schön en Männer

**Tip:**

The definite article already indicates the case. That means the adjective does not have to.

Plural, dative, genitive, and accusative masculine get the ending "en", no matter which article precedes them. The rest get the ending "-e".

EXAMPLES

- „Das rote **Auto** gehört dem reich**en** Mann.“
- „Hans sitzt auf dem alt**en** Sofa.“
- „Das Haus steht neben dem groß**en** Park.“
- „Das klein**e** Haus ist grau.“

DEFINITE ARTICLE WORDS

The definite article also includes the words "**diese**", "**jede**", "**alle**" and "**welche**".

If the article comes after one of these words, it also gets the ending as with the definite article. Since these words already have a declined ending, the adjective can remain in the basic form with the ending "e" or "en".

SUMMARY

- Plural, dative, genitive, and accusative masculine get the ending "en".
- The rest gets the ending "e".
- "Diese", "jede", "manche" and "welche" use the same endings – You use them like definite articles!

ADJECTIVES L2.2 – ADJECTIVE DECLENSION AFTER INDEFINITE ARTICLES

Adjective Endings after Indefinite Articles.....	42
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Adjective Endings after „kein“	43
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Video Lesson:

<https://easy-deutsch.com/yt/adjectivesL2-2/>

ADJECTIVE ENDINGS AFTER INDEFINITE ARTICLES

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine	ein schön er Mann	ein en schön en Mann	ein em schön en Mann	ein es schön en Mannes
Feminine	eine schön e Frau	eine schön e Frau	ein er schön en Frau	ein er schön en Frau
Neuter	ein schön es Haus	ein schön es Haus	ein em schön en Haus	ein es schön en Hauses
Plural	--	--	--	--

Can you see the pattern?

Nominative singular and accusative singular get the endings according to the definite articles. Everything else gets "en".

Those endings also apply to possessive articles such as "mein", "dein", etc., and to the negative article such as "kein". The only difference is that of course, they exist in the plural.

ADJECTIVE ENDINGS AFTER POSSESSIVE ARTICLES

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine	mein schön er Mann	mein en schön en Mann	mein em schön en Mann	mein es schön en Mannes
Feminine	mein e schön e Frau	mein e schön e Frau	mein er schön en Frau	mein er schön en Frau
Neuter	mein schön es Haus	mein schön es Haus	mein em schön en Haus	mein es schön en Hauses
Plural	mein e schön en Frauen	mein e schön en Frauen	mein en schön en Frauen	mein er schön en Frauen

Nominative singular and accusative singular get their endings according to the definite articles. Everything else gets "en."

ADJECTIVE ENDINGS AFTER "kein"

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine	kein schön er Mann	kein en schön en Mann	kein em schön en Mann	kein es schön en Mannes
Feminine	kein e schön e Frau	kein e schön e Frau	kein er schön en Frau	kein er schön en Frau
Neuter	kein schön es Haus	kein schön es Haus	kein em schön en Haus	kein es schön en Hauses
Plural	kein e schön en Frauen	kein e schön en Frauen	kein en schön en Frauen	kein er schön en Frauen

Nominative singular and accusative singular get the endings according to the definite articles. Everything else gets "en".

EXAMPLES

- „Mein **neues Auto** steht in der Garage.“
- „Hans sitzt auf einer **alten Kiste**.“
- „Das Haus ist in keinem **guten Zustand**.“
- „Das ist ein **schmales Bett**.“

SUMMARY

- Accusative masculine, plural, dative, and genitive take the ending "en".
- The rest get the ending of the corresponding definite article.

ADJECTIVES L2.3 – ADJ. DECLENSION WITHOUT ARTICLES

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Task	46



Video Lesson:

<https://easy-deutsch.com/yt/adjectivesL2-3/>

ADJECTIVE ENDINGS WITHOUT ARTICLES

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine	schöner Mann	schönen Mann	schönem Mann	schönen Mannes
Feminine	schöne Frau	schöne Frau	schöner Frau	schöner Frau
Neuter	schönes Haus	schönes Haus	schönem Haus	schönen Hauses
Plural	schöne Frauen	schöne Frauen	schönen Frauen	schöner Frauen

Can you see the pattern?

Without an article before the adjective, the adjective is forced to show the case. So, you have to add the ending of the definite article to the end of the adjective. The only exception is the genitive masculine and neutral. Here, the "s" at the end of the noun already clearly shows that it is the genitive, and therefore the adjective remains with its "en"- ending.

Declension after "viel/e", "einige" and "mehrere": After those words, the adjective always gets the ending of the corresponding definite article because they are in front of nouns that follow the rule of the null article. There are some more rare ones like that, which you can find [here \(click\)](#). You can always use the pattern adjective + ending of the corresponding definite article, but sometimes there can be a second version that is also correct.

EXAMPLES

- „Junge Frauen sind oft sehr hübsch.“
- „Ein Deutscher trinkt jedes Jahr 130 Liter kaltes Bier.“
- „Der Ring ist aus purem Gold.“
- „Dort stehen rote Autos.“

SUMMARY

If there is no article to signal the case, the adjective's ending must do that job. To do so, it gets the ending of the corresponding definite article.

Only exceptions: Genitive masculine and genitive neuter – You always add the ending "en" because the "s" at the end of the noun already signals the genitive case. We don't need the adjective to do the signaling. "Viele" and "manche" are always followed by an adjective with the ending of the corresponding definite article.

TASK



If you haven't done it yet, memorize the definite articles for all four cases. The declension is based on the definite article, and all endings correspond to those of the definite articles.

ADJECTIVES L2.4 – IRREGULARITIES IN ADJECTIVE DECLENSION

If an adjective ends in "-e", we do not need to add a second "e":

- "leise" – "ein leise**s** Kind"
(Wrong: ein leisees Kind)



If an adjective ends in "el", we have to remove the "e" from the "el":

- "sensibel" – "ein sensib**les** Kind" (Wrong: "ein sensibeles Kind")
- "dunkel" – "ein dunk**ler** Wald" (Wrong: "ein dunkeler Wald")

If an adjective ends in "-er" and has a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) directly before that "er", we have to remove the "e" from the "-er":

- "teuer" – "ein teure**s** Auto" (Wrong: "ein teures Auto")
- "sauer" – "ein saure**r** Apfel" (Wrong: "ein saurer Apfel")

BUT: "sauber" – "ein saubere**s** Zimmer" (No vowel in front of "-er")

In terms of the adjective "hoch", we have to remove the "c":

- „Der Turm ist **hoch**.“
- „Das ist ein **hoher** Turm.“
(Wrong: „Das ist ein hoher Turm.“)

For adjectives that end in "a", and those that come from city names and have the ending "er", there is no declension:

- „Das ist ein rosa**a** Kleid.“
- „Die lila**a** Bluse ist hässlich.“
- „Der Frankfurt**er** Flughafen ist riesig.“

ADJECTIVES L2.5 – ADJ. DECLENSION: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

SUMMARY OF GENERAL RULES

The ending of the adjective depends on the article in front and the case.

It differs depending on whether it is preceded by a definite or indefinite article (or possessive or negative article) or no article at all.



Questions so far? No? Let's start!

Step 1: Is there an article in front of the adjective?

- **No:**

→ Add the definite article ending (der, die, das, ...) for that case.

"schnelle Autos" (die Autos)

Exception: Genitive masculine & genitive neutral always get the ending "en".

- **Yes:** → **Onward to Step 2**

Step 2: Is the word "viele", "einige" or "mehrere" in front of the adjective?

- **Yes:**

→ Add the definite article ending (der, die, das, ...) for that case.

"viele schnelle Autos" (die Autos)

- **No:** → **Onward to Step 3**



Step 3: Is it **accusative masculine**, **dative**, **genitive**, or plural?• **Yes:**

→ Add the ending "en".

*"mit den schnell**en** Autos"* (**Dative** Plural)*"die schnell**en** Autos"* (**Nominative** Plural)• **No:** → **Onward to Step 4****Step 4:** Does the article have an ending?• **No:**

→ Add the ending of the definite article for the corresponding case.

*"**ein** schnell**es** Auto"* (das Auto – **Nominative** / **Accusative**)*"**mein** schön**er** Mann"* (der Mann – **Nominative**)• **Yes:**

→ Add the ending "e".

*"das schnell**e** Auto"* (**Nominative** / **Accusative** Neuter)*"eine schön**e** Frau"* (**Nominative** / **Accusative** Feminine)**Which ending for the adjective?**

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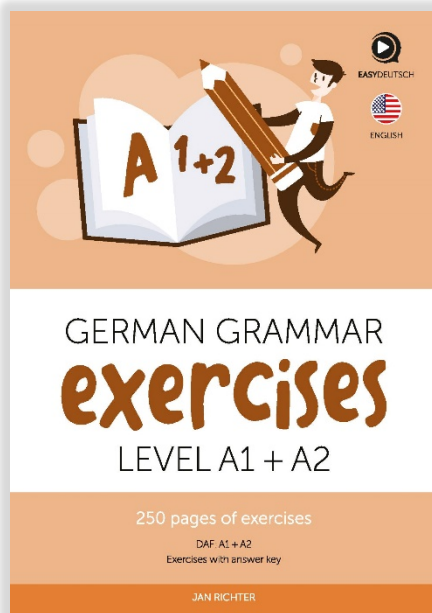
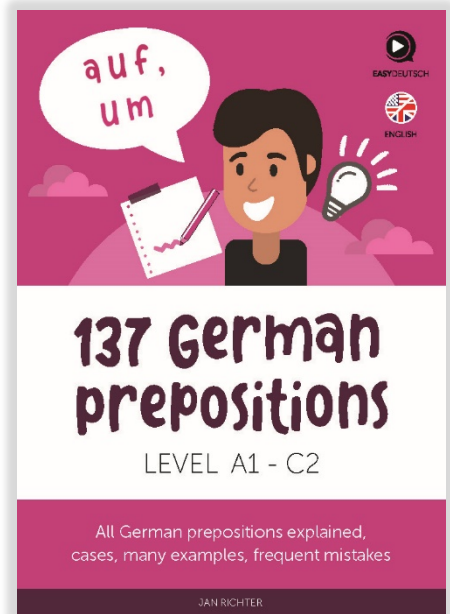
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