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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](http://www.easy-deutsch.de), I have one goal.

### My goal:

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

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

### PARTS OF SPEECH

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

<b>Adjective</b>		<i>schön, neu, alt, einfach, ...</i>
<b>Adverb</b>		<i>bald, hier, morgens, ...</i>
<b>Article</b>	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>
<b>Conjunction</b>	Demonstrative Article	<i>dieser, jener, ...</i>
	Coordinating	<i>denn, und, oder, ...</i>
<b>Noun</b>	Subordinating	<i>dass, weil, wenn, ...</i>
		<i>Computer, Buch, Frau, ...</i>
<b>Particle</b>		<i>sehr, denn, ja, mal, ...</i>
<b>Preposition</b>		<i>auf, aus, gegen, in, an, bei, ...</i>
<b>Pronoun</b>	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>
	Indefinite Pronoun	<i>man, etwas, niemand, ...</i>
<b>Verb</b>	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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## 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

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Video Lesson:

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

## ADJECTIVE ENDINGS AFTER DEFINITE ARTICLES

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
<b>Masculine</b>	<b>der</b> schöne Mann	<b>den</b> schönen Mann	<b>dem</b> schönen Mann	<b>des</b> schönen Mannes
<b>Feminine</b>	<b>die</b> schöne Frau	<b>die</b> schöne Frau	<b>der</b> schönen Frau	<b>der</b> schönen Frau
<b>Neuter</b>	<b>das</b> schöne Haus	<b>das</b> schöne Haus	<b>dem</b> schönen Haus	<b>des</b> schönen Hauses
<b>Plural</b>	<b>die</b> schönen Männer	<b>die</b> schönen Männer	<b>den</b> schönen Männern	<b>der</b> schönen 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 reichen **Mann**.“
- „Hans sitzt auf dem alten **Sofa**.“
- „Das Haus steht neben dem großen **Park**.“
- „Das kleine **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

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Video Lesson:

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

## ADJECTIVE ENDINGS AFTER INDEFINITE ARTICLES

	<b>Nominative</b>	<b>Accusative</b>	<b>Dative</b>	<b>Genitive</b>
<b>Masculine</b>	ein schöner Mann	einen schönen Mann	einem schönen Mann	eines schönen Mannes
<b>Feminine</b>	eine schöne Frau	eine schöne Frau	einer schönen Frau	einer schönen Frau
<b>Neuter</b>	ein schönes Haus	ein schönes Haus	einem schönen Haus	eines schönen Hauses
<b>Plural</b>	--	--	--	--

## 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

	<b>Nominative</b>	<b>Accusative</b>	<b>Dative</b>	<b>Genitive</b>
<b>Masculine</b>	mein schöner Mann	meinen schönen Mann	meinem schönen Mann	meines schönen Mannes
<b>Feminine</b>	meine schöne Frau	meine schöne Frau	meiner schönen Frau	meiner schönen Frau
<b>Neuter</b>	mein schönes Haus	mein schönes Haus	meinem schönen Haus	meines schönen Hauses
<b>Plural</b>	meine schönen Frauen	meine schönen Frauen	meinen schönen Frauen	meiner schönen Frauen

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

## ADJECTIVE ENDINGS AFTER "kein"

	<b>Nominative</b>	<b>Accusative</b>	<b>Dative</b>	<b>Genitive</b>
<b>Masculine</b>	kein schöner Mann	keinen schönen Mann	keinem schönen Mann	keines schönen Mannes
<b>Feminine</b>	keine schöne Frau	keine schöne Frau	keiner schönen Frau	keiner schönen Frau
<b>Neuter</b>	kein schönes Haus	kein schönes Haus	keinem schönen Haus	keines schönen Hauses
<b>Plural</b>	keine schönen Frauen	keine schönen Frauen	keinen schönen Frauen	keiner schönen 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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Video Lesson:

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

## ADJECTIVE ENDINGS WITHOUT ARTICLES

	<b>Nominative</b>	<b>Accusative</b>	<b>Dative</b>	<b>Genitive</b>
<b>Masculine</b>	schöner Mann	schönen Mann	schönem Mann	schönen Mannes
<b>Feminine</b>	schöne Frau	schöne Frau	schöner Frau	schöner Frau
<b>Neuter</b>	schönes Haus	schönés Haus	schönem Haus	schönen Hauses
<b>Plural</b>	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 leises Kind"

(Wrong: ein leisees Kind)



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

- "sensibel" – "ein sensibles Kind" (Wrong: "ein sensibeles Kind")
- "dunkel" – "ein dunkler 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 teures Auto" (Wrong: "ein teueres Auto")
- "sauer" – "ein saurer Apfel" (Wrong: "ein sauerer Apfel")

**BUT:** "sauber" – "ein sauberes 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 hocher 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 Kleid.“
- „Die lila Bluse ist hässlich.“
- „Der Frankfurter 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 proceeded 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** schnelle**s** Auto" (das Auto – Nominative / Accusative)

"**mein** schöne**r** Mann" (der Mann – Nominative)

- Yes:

→ Add the ending "e".

"das schnelle**e** Auto" (Nominative / Accusative Neuter)

"eine schöne**e** Frau" (Nominative / Accusative Feminine)

**Which ending for the adjective?**



It's not that hard!

**Works 100% !!!**



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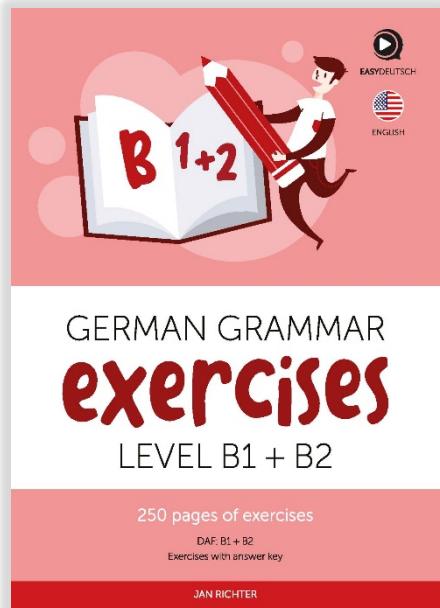
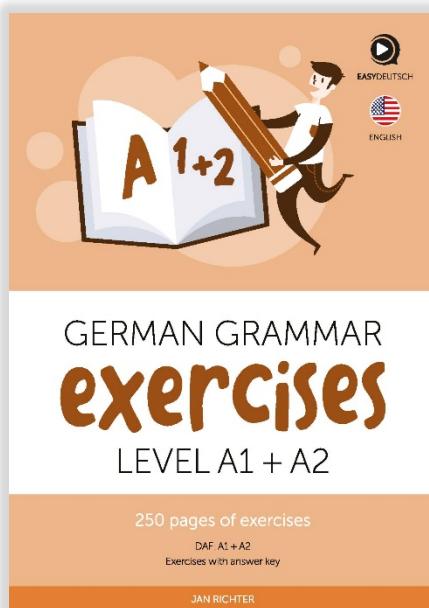
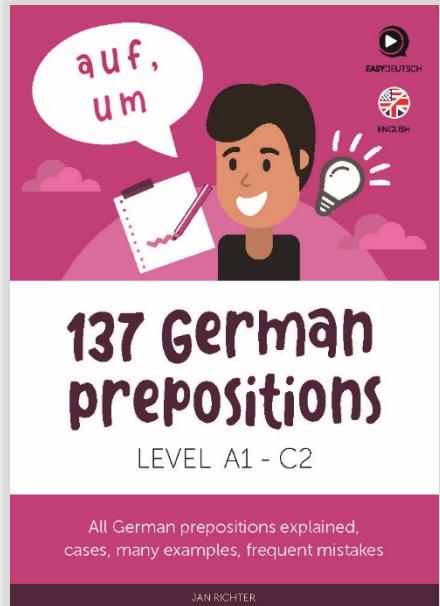
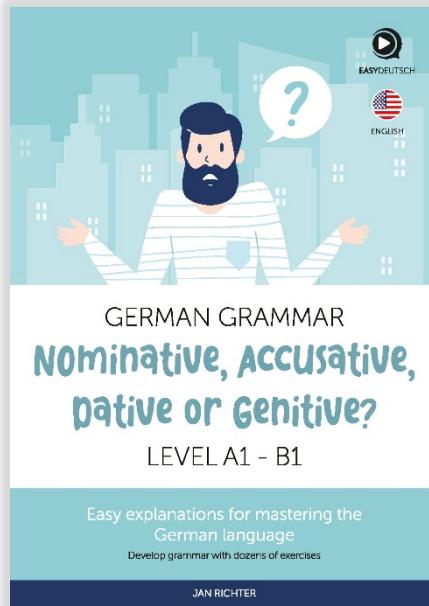
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