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ADJECTIVES L2 – ADJECTIVE DECLENSION

In German, you must decline adjectives in front of nouns. That means they get an ending.

The ending depends on:

- the gender
- the case
- the article in front of the adjective

I divided the lesson into five sub-lessons.



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

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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
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!

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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

	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	meine schön ^e Frau	meine 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.

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ADJECTIVES L2.3 – ADJ. DECLENSION WITHOUT ARTICLES

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Video Lesson:

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ADJECTIVE ENDINGS WITHOUT ARTICLES

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine	schöne r Mann	schöne n Mann	schöne m Mann	schöne n Mannes
Feminine	schöne e Frau	schöne e Frau	schöne r Frau	schöne r Frau
Neuter	schöne s Haus	schöne s Haus	schöne m Haus	schöne n Hauses
Plural	schöne e Frauen	schöne e Frauen	schöne n Frauen	schöne r 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 **kalt**es** Bier**.“
- „Der Ring ist aus **pure**m** 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.

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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 sensibeles Kind" (Wrong: "ein sensibeles Kind")
- "dunkel" – "ein dunkeler 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":

- "teueer" – "ein teueres Auto" (Wrong: "ein teures Auto")
- "saueer" – "ein saueerer Apfel" (Wrong: "ein saurer Apfel")

BUT: "saubeer" – "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 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 Kleid.“
- „Die lila Bluse ist hässlich.“
- „Der Frankfurter Flughafen ist riesig.“

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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.

"schnell**e** 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 schnell**e** 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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