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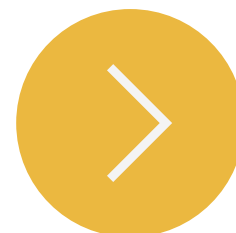
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ADJECTIVES L5 – ADJECTIVES AS NOUNS

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Video Lesson:

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GENERAL INFO

You can also use adjectives and participles as nouns.

They then mostly stand for people or abstracts (things you can't touch).

They are nouns, but you still must decline them like adjectives. You usually omit the noun because it is obvious and/or common knowledge. The adjective then becomes a noun and must be capitalized.

- „Ein fremder Mann klingelt an der Tür.“
„Ein **Fremder** klingelt an der Tür.“
- „Ein obdachloser Mensch schläft auf der Straße.“
„Ein **Obdachloser** schläft auf der Straße.“

COMPARISON

Usually, the following applies:

	Article +	Adjective/Participle +	Noun
Sandra hat schon wieder	einen	neuen	Freund.

When using the adjective/participle as a noun, remove the original noun (it must be obvious what we are talking about):

	Article +	Adjective/Participle as Noun
Sandra hat schon wieder	einen	Neuen.

“Freund” is obvious here and can be omitted. The Adjective becomes a noun, and you must capitalize it. However, you still have to apply the adjective declension. Nouns such as “Mensch”, “Mann” or “Frau” are often omitted because we usually know who we are talking about.

COMMON EXAMPLES

Adjective	Adjective as Noun	Adjective	Adjective as Noun
alt	der Alte	dumm	der Dumme
arbeitslos	der Arbeitslose	gut	das Gute (abstract)
bekannt	der Bekannte	klein	der Kleine
blond	die Blonde	neu	der Neue
böse	das Böse (abstract)	krank	der Kranke
deutsch	der Deutsche	tot	der Tote

- „Die **Deutschen** arbeiten viel.“

PARTICIPLES AS NOUNS

As described in lesson 4, you can use participles as adjectives. Accordingly, we can omit the noun after them – if obvious – and use them as nouns, like any other adjective.

Partizip 1 (Present Participle)	Partizip 1 as Noun
anwesend	der Anwesende
abwesend	der Abwesende
reisend	der Reisende
vorsitzend	der Vorsitzende
überlebend	der Überlebende

- „Beim Flugzeugabsturz gab es keine **Überlebenden**.“

Partizip 2 (Past Participle)	Partizip 2 as Noun
angestellt	der Angestellte
betrunken	der Betrunkene
gefangen	der Gefangene
prostituiert	die Prostituierte
vermisst	der Vermisste
verletzt	der Verletzte

- „Der **Vermisste** konnte noch nicht gefunden werden.“

SUMMARY

- When you use adjectives or participles as nouns, you usually omit the noun (normally "Mann", "Frau", "Mensch") because it is obvious or universally known.
- The adjectives remain in their adjectival declension corresponding to the article and case.

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