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Nouns

NOUNS L7 – N-DECLENSION

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Video Lesson:

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WHAT DOES N-DECLENSION MEAN?

Some masculine nouns require the so-called n-declension.

These nouns have an extra -(e)n ending in the singular accusative, singular dative, and singular genitive cases. → So, it looks like the plural form. The nominative stays the same!

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Singular	der Russe	den Russen	dem Russen	des Russen
Plural	die Russen	die Russen	den Russen	der Russen

WHEN DO WE USE N-DECLENSION?

- ✓ Only masculine nouns (exception: "das Herz")
- ✓ The plural form has to end in "-n" or "-en".
- ✓ People or animals
- ✓ Only in accusative, dative, and genitive

→ **ALL CONDITIONS MUST BE FULFILLED**

On the next page, you will find my Step-by-step guide to N-Declension.

STEP BY STEP: N-DECLENSION – YES? OR NO?

Step 1: Is the noun used in the **Accusative**, **Dative**, or **Genitive** case?

No → **no n-declension**

„Der **Franzose** ist freundlich.“ Nominative → No N-Declension

Yes → Onward to STEP 2

„Der **Deutsche** gibt **dem Franzosen** einen **Tipp**.“

Step 2: Is it a person or an animal?

No → **no n-declension**

„Der **Deutsche** gibt **einem Franzosen** einen **Tipp**.“

Yes → Onward to STEP 3

Step 3: Is the noun masculine and singular?

No → **no n-declension**

„Der **Deutsche** gibt **einem Franzosen** einen **Tipp**.“

Yes → Onward to STEP 4

Step 4: Does the noun use an "-n" or "-en" ending for its plural form?

No → **no n-declension**

„Der **Deutsche** gibt **einem Franzosen** einen **Tipp**.“

Yes → You have to use the n-declension

SUMMARY

The noun must take on an "-n" or "-en" ending when:

1. it is masculine
2. it is a person or an animal
3. the plural ends in "-n" or "-en" and
4. it is not in the nominative.

All four conditions

MUST BE fulfilled.

EXCEPTIONS OF N-DECLENSION

This rule works for almost all nouns, but there are a few exceptions:

1. You have to use n-declension for the following nouns (even though not all of the four rules are fulfilled):

- der Automat, die Automaten: den Automaten**n** – dem Automaten**n** – des Automaten**n**
- der Planet, die Planeten: den Planeten**n** – dem Planeten**n** – des Planeten**n**
- der Konsonant, die Konsonanten: den Konsonanten**n** – dem Konsonanten**n** – des Konsonanten**n**
- der Hydrant, die Hydranten: den Hydranten**n** – dem Hydranten**n** – des Hydranten**n**
- das Herz, die Herzen: den Herzen**n** – dem Herzen**n** – des Herzen**n(\$)**

2. You do NOT use n-declension for these nouns (even though all rules are fulfilled):

- der Doktor, die Doktoren: den Doktor – dem Doktor – des Doktors
- der Drachen, die Drachen: den Drachen – dem Drachen – des Drachens (→ the kite)

3. The n-declension is used together with the “genitive - s” for the following nouns:

- der Gedanke, die Gedanken: den Gedanken**n** – dem Gedanken**n** – des Gedanken**ns**
- der Glaube, kein Plural: den Glauben**n** – dem Glauben**n** – des Glaubens**ns**
- der Wille, die Willen: den Willen**n** – dem Willen**n** – des Willens**ns**
- der Frieden, (kein Plural): den Frieden**n** – dem Frieden**n** – des Friedens**ns**
- der Name, die Namen: den Namen**n** – dem Namen**n** – des Namens**ns**

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