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Nouns

NOUNS – L6.1: THE NOMINATIVE CASE

What is the Nominative Case?	137
Examples	137
Nominative – Declension	137
Use of the Nominative Case	137
Use: Subjects	137
Use: Subject Complements	138
Summary	138



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WHAT IS THE NOMINATIVE CASE?

The **nominative case** is the **Basic form** of the noun and describes the **subject** of the sentence (the person or thing that is acting or is talked about).

The subject tells you how to conjugate the verb.

The question for the nominative case is "Wer?" (Who?) or "Was?" (What?)

We use the nominative case also after the verbs "sein", "werden", and "bleiben".

(Warning: In this case, it is NOT the subject!)

EXAMPLES

- „**Das Pferd** ist weiß.“
- „**Der Junge** ist **der beste Schüler** in seiner Klasse!“

NOMINATIVE – DECLENSION

You have to adapt the articles to the case of the noun

	Definite Article	Indefinite Article
Masculine	der Mann	ein Mann
Feminine	die Frau	eine Frau
Neuter	das Kind	ein Kind
Plural	die Eltern	- Eltern

USE OF THE NOMINATIVE CASE

Use: Subjects

- „**Das Pferd** ist weiß.“
- „**Der Mann** schenkt der Frau die Blumen.“
- „Den Ball hat **der Junge** zum Geburtstag bekommen.“

The subject is always in the nominative case! No Exceptions!!!



Advice:

The subject is the person/thing that performs the action or the person/thing we are talking about. It tells you how to conjugate the verb.

Use: Subject Complements

The verbs **sein**, **werden** and **bleiben** use a subject complement. That means we have to use the nominative even though the noun is not the subject.

- „Du **bist ein guter Schüler**.“
- „Er **ist der Beste**!“
- „Du wirst **ein guter Feuerwehrmann werden**.“

The subject complement is not the subject, but it assigns a characteristic of the subject and is therefore in the nominative case as well.

SUMMARY

- The nominative case describes the subject of the sentence.
- It's the basic form.
- We can ask for it with the question words "Wer?" (Who?) or "Was?" (What?)

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