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Nouns

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Video Lesson:

<https://easy-deutsch.com/yt/nounsL6-2/>

WHAT IS THE ACCUSATIVE CASE?

The **accusative case** is also known as the **direct object**.

But: We also use the accusative case **after certain verbs and prepositions**.

The direct object is the thing that is acted upon.

The question for the accusative case is: "Wen?" (Who?/Whom?) or "Was?" (What?)

EXAMPLES

- „Der Mann hat **ein Pferd**.“

What does the man have? – **Ein Pferd!**

We use the accusative case always after the verb "haben". That's because "haben" always needs a direct object!

- „Der Junge schenkt einer Freundin **die Blumen**.“

What does the boy give to a friend? – **Die Blumen!**

"Die Blumen" is the direct object, which is acted upon!

ACCUSATIVE – DECLENSION

In the accusative case, we only need to change the articles for masculine nouns!

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

USE OF THE ACCUSATIVE CASE

Use: Direct Objects

In sentences with only one object, the object typically takes the accusative case.

Exceptions are when the verb or preposition specifically requires the **nominative**, **genitive**, or **dative** case.

- „Er gibt der Frau **die Blumen**.“

(The flowers are acted upon / used for the action, they don't do anything on their own, and they don't receive anything → direct object)

- „Er schenkt ihr **ein Auto**.“

(The car is acted upon / used for the action, it doesn't do anything on its own, and it doesn't receive anything → direct object)

Use: Accusative Objects

In sentences that have just the subject and a single object, the nouns take the accusative case, unless the preposition or the verb requires the use of nominative, dative, or genitive.

- „Ich habe **ein Eis**.“
- „Er singt **ein Liebeslied**.“
- „Er spielt **den Ball**.“

Most verbs require the object to be in the accusative case. That makes everything pretty easy because, at the same time, it's the direct object of the sentence: it is acted upon / used for the action, it doesn't do anything on its own, and it doesn't receive anything.

→ direct object → **Accusative Case**

Use: After Prepositions

The prepositions "um", "durch", "ohne", "bis", "für", and "gegen" ALWAYS require the noun to be in the accusative case.

- „Er fährt durch **den Tunnel**.“
- „Die Blumen sind für **meine Freundin**.“
- „Der Mann geht um **das Haus**.“

Prepositions don't care whether it's a direct or indirect object or what case the verb requires. It also doesn't matter which case the verb requires. So, if you have a preposition in front of a noun, the preposition determines the case.

**Remember:**

If you have a preposition in front of a noun, none of the other rules apply anymore. All that matters is the preposition. It doesn't matter whether it's a direct or indirect object or if the verb requires a specific case!

The preposition determines the case. ALWAYS!

TASK



- Study the prepositions in your own language!
- Understand what a preposition is in your own language.
- Go to my list of the most important prepositions in German. (Bonus Section)

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