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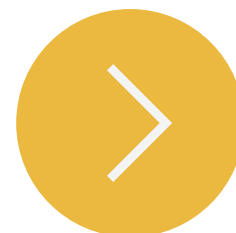
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Pronouns

PRONOUNS L8 – INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

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Video Lesson:

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WHAT ARE INDEFINITE PRONOUNS?

Indefinite pronouns are substitutes **for people or things**.

The difference between personal pronouns and indefinite pronouns is that indefinite pronouns always have a general meaning. Therefore, they can't stand for a specific person or thing.

Example:

- „Bringst du mir **etwas** zu essen mit?“
= general, nothing specific
- „Bringst du mir **einen Döner** mit?“
= concrete. You should bring a “Döner”, nothing else!

DIFFERENT GROUPS OF INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

There are indefinite pronouns **for people**:

"**man**" – "**jemand**" – "**niemand**"

There are indefinite pronouns **for things**:

"**etwas**" – "**nichts**" – "**alles**" – "**welch-**"

There are indefinite pronouns **for people and things**:

"**jede**" – "**einige**" – "**mache**" – "**ein**" – "**kein**" – "**all-**"

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS ONLY FOR PEOPLE

Indefinite Pronoun "man"

"Man" is **impersonal** and can refer to **one or more people**.

It is always in the **third person singular** and must be **declined**.

Nominative	Accusative	Dative
man	einen	einem

- „Hier muss **man** **einem** immer alles drei Mal erklären!“

Indefinite Pronouns "jemand" & "niemand"

"Jemand" can also only be in the **third person singular**.

It refers to **an unspecified person**.

In informal language, many people drop the declension ending. Both versions are correct. It sounds fancier if you use it, but it doesn't matter if you don't.

"Niemand" is the negative form of "jemand".

Nominative	Accusative	Dative
jemand	jemand(en)	jemand(em)
niemand	niemand(en)	niemand(em)

Examples:

- „Spricht hier **jemand** Deutsch?“ – (No one responds)
- „Schade, **niemand** spricht hier Deutsch.“
- „Wenn man **jemanden** braucht, ist **niemand** da.“

"Jemand" can also be combined with "irgend-". That makes it even more unspecified.

- „**Irgendjemand** wird das schon machen.“

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS ONLY FOR THINGS

Indefinite Pronoun "etwas"

"Etwas" is unchangeable → No declension.

It is a **replacement** for **unspecified things or situations**.

We can also strengthen it with "irgend-".

In informal language, we often shorten it to "was".

- „Hörst du **etwas**?“
- „Ja, da ist **irgendetwas**!“



ATTENTION

"Etwas" has a second meaning: "ein bisschen" or "ein wenig".

*"**Etwas** mehr Erholung würde dir sicher guttun."*

EN: A little bit more relaxation would be good for you.

*"Hast du **etwas** mehr Geld für mich, Papa?"*

EN: Do you have a bit more money for me, dad?

Vs.

*"Siehst du **etwas**?"*

EN: Do you see **something**?

Indefinite Pronoun "nichts"

"Nichts" is the negation of "etwas" and is also unchangeable.

- „Hast du **etwas** gehört?“ – „Nein ich habe **nichts** gehört.“
- „Heute ist wieder **nichts** passiert.“
- „Ich werde heute **nichts** machen.“



ATTENTION

Don't confuse "nichts" with the negation "nicht".

Indefinite Pronoun "alles"

"Alles" has a **strong generalizing meaning** and stands for uncountable **things or actions**.

- „Ich mache am liebsten **alles** allein.“
- „**Alles** oder nichts!“

"Nichts" is the negation of "alles".

"Alles" refers to situations, things, and actions where we cannot determine the gender.

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS FOR PEOPLE AND THINGS

Indefinite pronouns for people and things can also be used as articles. If there is a noun behind it, it's an article. If not, it's a pronoun. (Definite article declension endings apply.)

Examples:

- „Ich will **jeden** Tag Sport machen.“ → article
- „**Jeder** will gesund leben.“ → indefinite pronoun

Indefinite Pronoun "jede"

"Jede" must be declined as a definite article (der, die, das...).

The corresponding noun must be singular.

It describes each individual part of a group.

- „**Jeder** will ein iPhone.“ – Jeder Mensch (Everyone wants an iPhone.)
- „Ich bin mit **jedem** zufrieden.“ – mit jedem Schüler (I am please with everyone.)
- „Wir haben **jeden** angerufen.“ – Jeden Kunden (We have called everyone.)

Indefinite Pronoun "alle"

"All-" must be declined like a definite article (der, die, das...). (Warning: always plural)

The corresponding noun must be plural.

It describes the entire group.

- „**Alle** wollen ein iPhone.“ – Alle Menschen (All want an iPhone.)
- „Ich bin mit **allen** zufrieden.“ – mit allen Schülern (I am please with all.)
- „Wir haben **alle** angerufen.“ – Alle Kunden (We have called all.)

In English, you would still use “everyone”, whether it’s plural or singular. But to make it more obvious, I translated the examples word-by-word.

Indefinite Pronouns "einige / manche"

"Einige" and "manche" in singular always refer to things → ending "es".

In the plural, they can also refer to people.

They refer to an indefinite quantity:

- „**Einige** müssen den Test wiederholen.“
- „Ich würde **manches** ändern.“

"Einige" and "manche" are often used as articles and rarely as pronouns.

Indefinite Pronouns "ein / kein"

Declension:

	Gender	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Singular	Masculine	einer	einen	einem	eines
	Neuter	eins	eins	einem	eines
	Feminine	eine	eine	einer	einer
Plural		welche	welche	welchen	welcher

"Kein" has the same endings.

Examples:

- „Hast du ein Auto?“
- „Ja, ich habe **eins**.“ / „Nein, ich habe **keins**.“
- „Gibst du mir noch ein paar Äpfel?“
- „Ja, hier hast du **welche**.“ / „Nein, du bekommst **keine** mehr.“

If we talk about something uncountable, we have to replace "ein" with "welche" in the singular as well.

That only applies **to things**. Not for people. People are always countable!

- „Ich brauche noch Salz! Hast du noch **welches**?“
- „Nein, aber frag mal Frau Meier, sie hat bestimmt **welches**!“

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