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VERBS L16.4 – VERBS WITH DATIVE & ACCUSATIVE COMPLEMENTS

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DATIVE & ACCUSATIVE COMPLEMENTS

In addition to a nominative complement, some verbs have a dative and an accusative complement as well.

These are above all verbs of giving, taking and saying. These verbs require three persons or things.

The subject is, as always, the **nominative complement**.

The **dative complement** is usually the receiver of the action. (indirect object)

The **accusative complement** is the third object. Usually, it is a thing. (direct object)

- „*Der Mann* gibt *dem Kind* *den Ball*.“

"*Der Mann*" is the acting person → **Nominative**.

The child is the receiver → **Dative** → "*dem Kind*."

The ball is the direct object, the object to which something is done.

→ **Accusative** → "*den Ball*".

- „*Er* schickt *seinem Bruder* *das Geschenk* *per Post*.“

"*Er*" is the acting person → **Nominative**

His brother is the receiver → **Dative** → "*seinem Bruder*"

The present is the direct object, the object to which something is done.

→ **Accusative** → "*das Geschenk*"

"*Per Post*" is an adjunct. It's additional information that could be omitted.

- „*Er* hat *(mir)* *eine E-Mail* geschrieben.“

"*Er*" is the acting person. → **Nominative**

I am the receiver. → **Dative** → "*mir*" (Personal pronoun in the dative case)

The email is the direct object to which something is done.

→ **Accusative** → "*eine E-Mail*"



ATTENTION

When the "receiver" is unknown or obvious, the dative complement can be omitted:

„**Er** hat **(mir)** eine E-Mail geschrieben.“

„**Er** schickt **(seinem Bruder)** das Geschenk per Post.“

WORD ORDER

Sentences with nouns (no pronouns):

Nominative + Verb + Dative + Accusative

Der Mann	gibt	seiner Tochter	das Buch.
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Sentences with one pronoun as the accusative or dative object:

Nominative + Verb + Pronoun + Accusative/Dative

Der Mann	gibt	ihr	das Buch.
Der Mann	gibt	es	seiner Tochter.

Sentences with two pronouns as the accusative and dative objects:

Nominative + Verb + Pronoun + Accusative/ Dative

Der Mann	gibt	es	ihr.
Er	gibt	es	ihr.

The nominative complement is usually in position 1.

You can put the dative or accusative pronoun in P1 as well but be careful! It can be pretty confusing, and I only recommend it if the dative or accusative complement isn't a pronoun.

SUMMARY

- Some verbs require a dative and an accusative complement.
- These verbs need three people or things to execute the action.
- The receiver is the indirect object and the dative complement.
- The object or person to which or to whom something is done is the direct object and the accusative complement.
- These rules only apply if we do not use prepositions.
- Prepositions always determine their own case.

TASK



Native Language Check:

- Check if the word order changes with or without pronouns in your own language.
- Do you put pronouns in front of other nouns as well?

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