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VERBS L16.5 – VERBS WITH GENITIVE COMPLEMENTS

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GENITIVE COMPLEMENTS

There are only a few verbs that use genitive complements. Besides the obligatory **nominative complement** (subject), you usually have to add an **accusative complement** as well to use the genitive verbs in a grammatically correct way.

There is an easier version for almost all of these verbs: you simply have to add a preposition or use another verb with the same meaning.

The only verbs we actually have to use with the genitive are verbs used in court or by police, i.e., anklagen, bezichtigen, überführen, beschuldigen, verdächtigen.

NOMINATIVE + GENITIVE

Used to commemorate something or to become a master of something and can express a need:

- „Wir gedenken **der Toten**." (= Wir erinnern uns an die Toten.)
- „Wir bedürfen **der Hilfe**." (= Wir brauchen die Hilfe.)
- „Wir werden **der Situation** Herr." (= Wir werden die Situation unter Kontrolle bringen.)

NOMINATIVE + ACCUSATIVE + GENITIVE

Used to boast, to remember, to rejoice, to abstain, or to be ashamed of something

- „Ich erinnere mich **der alten Zeiten**." (= Ich erinnere mich an die alten Zeiten.)
- „Ich schäme mich **meiner schlechten Aussprache**." (= Ich schäme mich für meine schlechte Aussprache.)
- „Ich erfreue mich **des Lebens**!" (= Ich habe Spaß am Leben.)
- „Ich brüste mich **meiner Erfolge**." (= Ich gebe mit meinen Erfolgen an.)
- „Ich enthalte mich **der Stimmabgabe**." (= Ich gebe meine Stimme nicht ab.)

Used to accuse, convict, blame or suspect someone of something

- „Man klagt ihn der Korruption an.“ (= Der Staatsanwalt sagt, man hätte das getan.)
- „Man verdächtigt ihn des Verbrechens.“ (= Es gibt Beweise/Indizien, die darauf hindeuten.)
- „Man beschuldigt ihn des Verrats.“ (= Meistens hat man keine Beweise, sondern denkt es nur.)
- „Man bezichtigt ihn der Straftat.“ (= Meistens sind es falsche Anschuldigungen.)
- „Man überführt ihn des Verbrechens.“ (= Die Polizei weist ihm das Verbrechen nach.)

SUMMARY

- There is an easier version for almost all of these verbs. You simply have to add a preposition or use another verb with a similar meaning.
- This doesn't fit those verbs used in court or by the police (anklagen, verdächtigen, bezichtigen, beschuldigen, überführen).

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