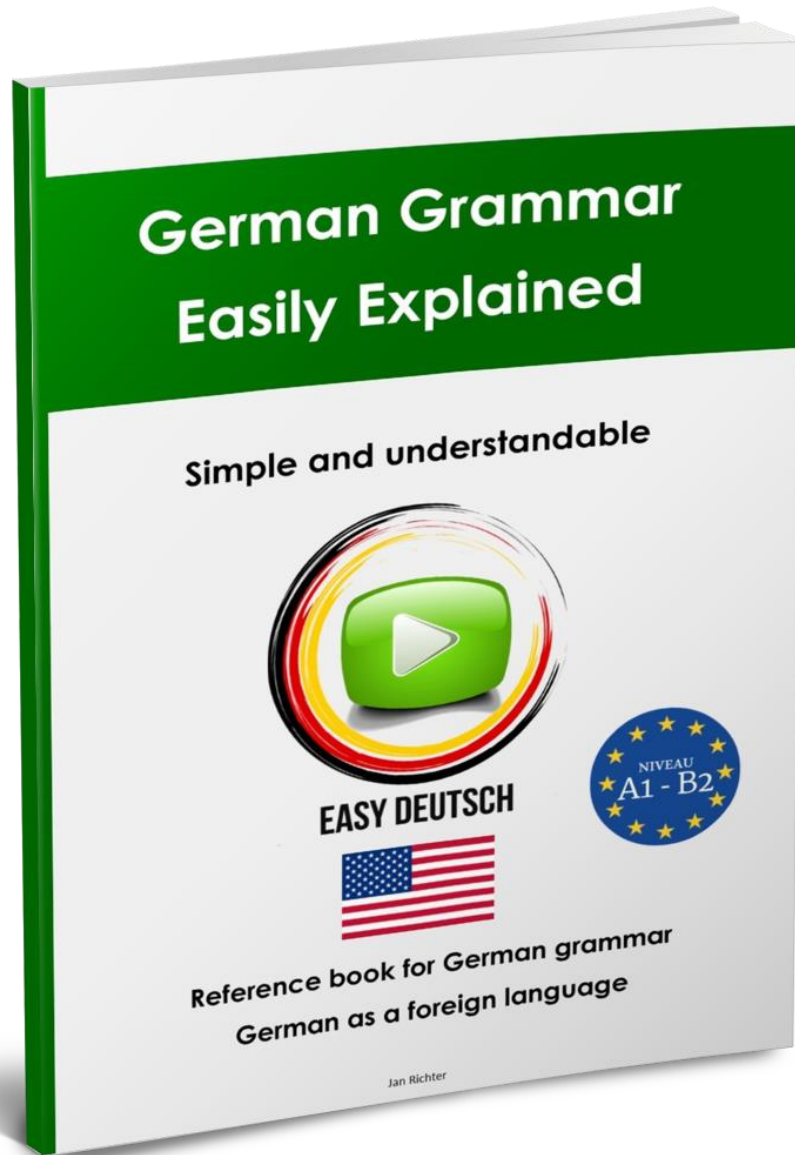


**This lesson is part of my Ebook:
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ADJECTIVES L 2 – ADJECTIVE DECLENSION

Adjectives in front of a noun must be declined in German. That means they get an ending.

The ending depends on:

- the gender
- the case
- the article in front of the adjective

I divided this lesson in 4 sublessons.

ADJECTIVES L 2.1 – ADJ. DECLENSION AFTER DEFINITE ARTICLES

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ADJECTIVE ENDINGS AFTER DEFINITE ARTICLES

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine	der schön e Mann	den schön en Mann	dem schön en Mann	des schön en Mannes
Feminine	die schön e Frau	die schön e Frau	der schön en Frau	der schön en Frau
Neuter	das schön e Haus	das schön e Haus	dem schön en Haus	des schön en Hauses
Plural	die schön en Männer	die schön en Männer	den schön en Männern	der schön en Männer

ADVICE

The definite article already signals the case. If the article already signals the case, the adjective doesn't have to do that. Nevertheless, it gets an ending:

- Plural, Dative, Genitive and Accusative masculine take the "en" – Ending
- The rest gets the ending "e"

EXAMPLES

- „Das rote **Auto** gehört dem reich**en** Mann.“

EN: The red car belongs to the rich man.

- „Hans sitzt auf dem alt**en** Sofa.“

EN: Hans sits on the old sofa.

- „Das Haus steht neben dem großen Park.“

EN: „The house stands/is beside the big park.“

- „Das kleine Haus ist grau.“

EN: The small house is grey.“

DEFINITE ARTICLE WORDS

“Diese”, “jede”, “manche”, and “welche” use the adjective declension of definite articles as well.

All these articles words already possess the ending of the definite articles.

→ They already signal the case.

→ Adjectives stay with “e” or “en”.

SUMMARY

- Plural, Dative, Genitive and Accusative masculine take the “en” – Ending
- The rest gets the ending “e”
- “diese”, “jede”, “manche”, and “welche” use the same endings - They are definite articles as well!

ADJECTIVES I 2.2 – ADJ. DECLENSION AFTER INDEFINITE ARTICLES

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ADJECTIVE ENDINGS AFTER INDEFINITE ARTICLES

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Masculine	ein schön er Mann	ein en schön en Mann	ein em schön en Mann	ein es schön en Mannes
Feminine	eine schön e Frau	eine schön e Frau	ein er schön en Frau	ein er schön en Frau
Neuter	ein schön es Haus	ein schön es Haus	ein em schön en Haus	ein es schön en Hauses
Plural	--	--	--	--

Do you see the pattern?

Nominative singular and accusative neuter and feminine get the endings according to the definite articles. Everything else gets "en".

Possessive articles and the negative article "kein" use the same adjective endings. But of course they exist in plural.

ADJECTIVE ENDINGS AFTER POSSESSIVE ARTICLES

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Mas.	mein schöner Mann	mein e n schön e n Mann	mein e m schön e n Mann	mein e s schön e n Mannes
Fem.	mein e schön e Frau	mein e schön e Frau	mein e r schön e n Frau	mein e r schön e n Frau
Neu.	mein schön e s Haus	mein schön e s Haus	mein e m schön e n Haus	mein e s schön e n Hauses
Plu.	mein e schön e n Frauen	mein e schön e n Frauen	mein e n schön e n Frauen	mein e r schön e n Frauen

Nominative singular and accusative neuter and feminine get the endings according to the definite articles. Everything else gets "en".

ADJECTIVE ENDINGS AFTER "KEIN"

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Mas.	kein schön e r Mann	kein e n schön e n Mann	kein e m schön e n Mann	kein e s schön e n Mannes
Fem.	kein e schön e Frau	kein e schön e Frau	kein e r schön e n Frau	kein e r schön e n Frau
Neu.	kein schön e s Haus	kein schön e s Haus	kein e m schön e n Haus	kein e s schön e n Hauses
Plu.	kein e schön e n Frauen	kein e schön e n Frauen	kein e n schön e n Frauen	kein e r schön e n Frauen

Nominative singular and accusative neuter and feminine get the endings according to the definite articles. Everything else gets "en".

EXAMPLES

- „Mein **neues** **Auto** steht in der Garage.“

EN: My new car stands/is in the garage.

- „Hans sitzt auf einer **alten** **Kiste**.“

EN: Hans sits on an old box.

- „Das Haus ist in keinem **guten** **Zustand**.“

EN: *The house is not in a good shape.*

- „Das ist ein **schmales** **Bett**.“

EN: *That is a narrow bed.*

SUMMARY

- Plural, dative, genitive and accusative masculine take the “en” – Ending
- The rest gets the ending of the corresponding definite article

ADJECTIVES I 2.3 – ADJ. DECLENSION WITHOUT ARTICLES

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ADJECTIVE ENDINGS WITHOUT ARTICLES

	Nominative	Accusative	Dative	Genitive
Mas.	schöne r Mann	schöne n Mann	schöne m Mann	schöne n Mann es
Fem.	schöne e Frau	schöne e Frau	schöne r Frau	schöne r Frau
Neu.	schöne s Haus	schöne s Haus	schöne m Haus	schöne n Haus es
Plu.	schöne e Frauen	schöne e Frauen	schöne n Frauen	schöne r Frauen

Do you see the pattern?

Except genitive masculine and neuter all adjectives get the ending of the corresponding definite article! There is nothing else that indicates the case. So the adjective must show the case.

Only in genitive masculine and neuter we have the “s/es” at the end of the noun which indicates the genitive case and therefor the adjective stays with “en”.

Declension after “viel”, “einige”, “mehrere” and “manche”: After those all adjectives get the ending of the corresponding definite article because you will always find them in front of nouns that fulfil all rules of the zero article.

There are some more that are seldomly used. You can find them [here \(click\)](#). They always work with adjectives + ending of the corresponding definite article but sometime there is a second version that is correct too.

EXAMPLES

- „*Junge Frauen* sind oft sehr *hübsch*.“

EN: Young woman are often very pretty.

- „*Ein Deutscher trinkt jedes Jahr 130 Liter kaltes Bier*.“

EN: A German drinks 130l of cold beer every year.

- „*Der Ring ist aus purem Gold*.“

EN: The ring is made of pure gold.

- „*Dort stehen rote Autos*.“

EN: There are red cars.

SUMMARY

If there is no article to signal the case, so the adjective ending must do that job and gets the ending of the corresponding definite article.

Only exception: Genitive masculine and neuter. The ending “en” is always added because the “s” at the end of the noun already signals genitive case and the adjective stays “unemployed” and “viele” and “manche” are always followed by an adjective with the ending of the corresponding definite article.

TASK

If you haven't done it so far: Memorize the definite articles in all cases. You need them with everything that is related to the German declension.



ADJEKTIVE I 2.4 – IRREGULARITIES ADJECTIVE DECLENSION

If an adjective ends in “e”, we don’t add a second “e”

- „leise“ – „ein leises Kind“

(Wrong: ein leisees Kind) (a quiet child)

For adjectives that end in “el”, remove the “e” from the “el”

- „sensibel“ – „ein sensibeles Kind“ (Wrong: „ein sensibeles Kind“) (a sensible child)
- „dunkel“ – „ein dunkeler Wald“ (Wrong: „ein dunkeler Wald“) (a dark forest)

For adjectives that end in “er” and have a vowel (a, e, i, o, u) directly before that “er”, remove the “e” from the “er”.

- „teuer“ – „ein teueres Auto“ (Wrong: „ein teueres Auto“) (an expensive car)
- „sauer“ – „ein sauerer Apfel“ (Wrong: „ein saurerer Apfel“) (a sour apple)

BUT: „sauber“ – „ein sauberes Zimmer“ (No vowel before) (a clean room)

For the adjective “hoch”, remove the “c”

- „Der Turm ist hoch.“ (The tower is high.)
- „Das ist ein hoher Turm.“ (This is a high tower.)

(Wrong: „Das ist ein hocher Turm.“)

For adjectives that end in “a”, as well as those that come from city names and end in “er”, there is no declension.

- „Das ist ein rosaa Kleid.“ (That’s a pink dress.)
- „Die lilaa Bluse ist hässlich.“ (The violet blouse is ugly.)
- „Der Frankfurer Flughafen ist riesig. (Frankfurt Airport is gigantic.)

ADJECTIVES I 2.5 – ADJ. DECLENSION STEP BY STEP GUIDE

SUMMARY OF GENERAL RULES

- **The adjective ending depends on the article in front and the case.**
- Different articles in front (definite article, indefinite article, possessive or negative article) of the adjective require different adjective endings.



Questions so far? No – Let's start!

Step 1: Is there an Article before the adjective?

- **No:**

→ Add the ending of the definite article (der, die, das,...) for that case

„schnelle Autos“ (die Autos)

Exception: Genitive masculine & neutral use an „en“ ending

- **Yes: → Onward to Step 2**

Step 2: Is there “viele”, “einige”, “mehrere” or “manche” before the adjective?

- **Yes:**

→ Add the ending of the definite article (der, die, das,...) for that case

„viele schnelle Autos“ (die Autos)

- **No: → Onward to Step 3**

Step 3: Is it **dative**, **genitive**, plural or **acc. masculine**?

- **Yes:**

→ Add the ending „en“

„mit den schnell**en** Autos“ (**Dative** Plural)

„die schnell**en** Autos“ (**Nominative** Plural)

- **No:** → **Onward to Step 4**

Step 4: Does the article have an ending?

- **No:**

→ Add the ending of the definite article for the corresponding case

„**ein** schnell**es** Auto“ (das Auto – **Nominative** / **Accusative**)

„**mein** schön**er** Mann“ (der Mann – **Nominative**)

- **Yes:**

→ Add the ending „e“

„das schnell**e** Auto“ (**Nominative** / **Accusative** Neuter)

„eine schön**e** Frau“ (**Nominative** / **Accusative** Feminine)



Which ending for the adjective?

It's actually not that hard!

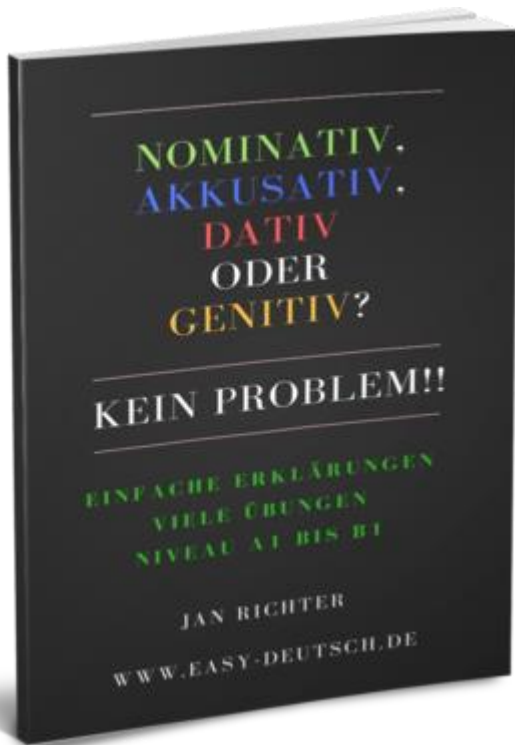
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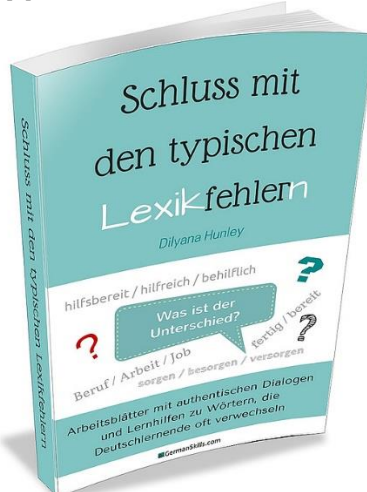
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Jan Richter

Online Services Jan Richter

Straße des Friedens 14

02727 Neugersdorf

E-Mail: lehrer@easy-deutsch.de

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Die Europäische Kommission stellt eine Plattform zur Online-Streitbeilegung (OS) bereit:

<http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/odr>

Unsere E-Mail-Adresse finden sie oben im Impressum.