

# Assignment 1: Chapter 2:

German grammar: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German\\_grammar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_grammar)

- which features are marked on nouns, adjectives, and verbs
- comparing the grammar to the treebank grammar

## Nouns:

In German nouns are inflected by the following: plural/singular, gender, and case. In addition, every noun has an article (*der*, *die*, *das*), these articles are equivalent to the Swedish nouns with *ett*-ord and *en*-ord; where every Swedish noun has either *ett* or *en*, so has every noun in German either *der*, *die*, or *das*. Roughly you can divide them into: *der* belongs to masculine, *die* to feminine, and *das* to neutral for singular. There is however also the case, that the article shows if the noun is plural or singular (*das Fenster* - the window/ *die Fenster* - the windows). Also every noun is capitalized.

German has four cases: nominative, dative, genitive and accusative.

Whereas dative isn't used quite much in the colloquial speech though, therefore there is the saying *Der Dativ ist dem Genetiv sein Tod* ("The dative is to the genitive its death").

## Adjective:

The adjective always are written before the noun and is being adjusted to the noun. That means the adjective "follows" the noun in gender, singular/plural, and case. Adjectives in German do have the following three endings: strong endings, mixed endings and weak endings. Which ending is used depends on gender, case and the word the adjective comes after.

Adjectives in German have a positive form, a comparative form and a superlative form. An example would be: *groß-größer-am größten* == *big-bigger-biggest*.

Also adjectives are adjusted after the article: if there is a definite article, indefinite article, or no article at all.

## Verb:

Verbs are inflected by person, plural/singular, time, and modi (indicative, imperative, conjunctive)

Indicative: appears most of the time, it covers a neutral utterance

imperative: with the imperative utterances like prompts are being used

conjunctive: while using the conjunctive utterances can be relativised, with the conjunctive wishes, or possibilities can be uttered, as well as doubts.

Verbs do cover the time, which means that they are being inflected in the current time which is being used for the utterance. For example when the utterance is in the present tense the verb will as well be in the present tense, whereas in the past tense the verb will as well be in the past tense.

The verb will adjust to the person who is speaking - if they are more than one person, the verb will be in plural.

#### Comparing German from the wikipedia article to German in the treebank:

- Regarding nouns I couldn't find any massive differences between the grammar I found in the article. However, there are less nouns than I thought there are. One interesting fact, there are 15 nouns, which don't have a case like accusative, dative, nominative or genitive, but they to the 3rd person singular. Then there are four words which only appear as underscores. In addition, there is one noun which has instead of a case feature a "foreign=yes" feature. I guess this means that there is a non-German-language noun. The rest of the nouns, do all have a case (either accusative, nominative, genitive and dative), a gender (masculine, feminine, neutral), number (singular, plural) and person(1st,2nd,3rd person singular/plural)
- Regarding the adjectives I don't find any massive differences between the grammar I found in the article. Most of the adjectives do follow the rule of case(either accusative, nominative, genitive and dative), degree, a gender (masculine, feminine, neutral), number (singular, plural) and person(1st,2nd,3rd person singular/plural). Particularly interesting is maybe that there are 193 adjectives with the degree part of speech "Degree=POS", and they only have the degree listed, nothing more (no case,gender, number, or person), the same way are 9 adjectives only listed with "Degree=Cmp". Also is it interesting, that there are 2 adjectives listed with "Degree=Cmp" and "Person=3", but nothing more is specified. As well later on there is again "Degree=POS" and "Person=3". Except

of these, there is nothing which is extraordinary, which isn't found in the Wikipedia article about German grammar.

- Regarding the verbs I didn't find any massive differences between the grammar I found in the article. However, there are less verbs than I thought there are. There seems to be 444 verbs which just have the feature underscore, and 46 verbs that only have the verb form indicative, as well as three verbs that only have the feature present tense. All the other verbs do have a mood (indicative, imperative, or conjunctive), a number (singular/plural), a person (1st, 2nd, 3rd singular/plural), and a tense.

To conclude, in general the German treebank data regarding nouns, adjectives, and verbs are similar to the data which was seen in the wikipedia article. Meaning, that the grammar which is mentioned in the wikipedia article is being featured in the treebank. There were even though some exceptions, which are mentioned just above.