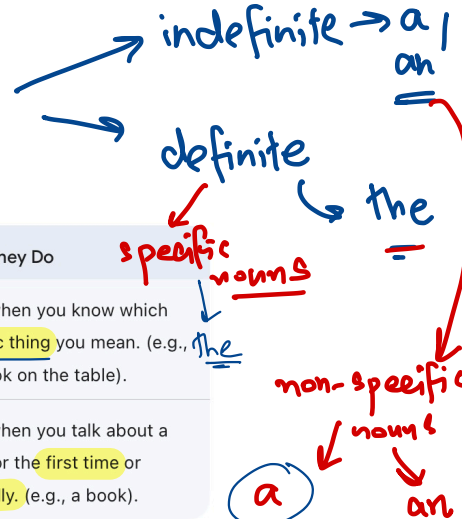


Articles (Artikel)



1. What Are Articles? 🤔

Type	German Names	English Equivalent	What They Do
Definite	<i>Bestimmte Artikel</i>	The	Used when you know which <u>specific thing</u> you mean. (e.g., <u>the</u> book on the table).
Indefinite	<i>Unbestimmte Artikel</i>	A / An	Used when you talk about a thing for the <u>first time</u> or <u>generally</u> . (e.g., a book).

2. The Genders and Basic Articles (Nominative Case)



German has three genders for singular nouns. In the Nominative case (the "subject" of the sentence, doing the action), they look like this:

Gender	Definite Article (The)	Indefinite Article (A/An)	Noun Example
Masculine	<i>der</i> (Mann) <u>the man</u>	<i>ein</i> a Man <u>Mann</u>	<i>der Mann</i> (theman) / <i>ein Mann</i> (aman)
Feminine	<i>die</i> (Frau) <u>the woman</u>	<i>eine</i> a Woman <u>eine Frau</u>	<i>die Frau</i> (thewoman) / <i>eine Frau</i> (awoman)
Neuter	<i>das</i> (Auto) <u>the car</u>	<i>ein</i> a Car <u>ein Auto</u>	<i>das Kind</i> (thechild) / <i>ein Kind</i> (achild)
Plural	<i>die</i> (Bücher) <u>The books</u>	(None)	<i>die Kinder</i> (thechildren) / (No "a" in plural!)

3. Articles in Cases: The Grammar Jobs

The articles change their endings depending on the noun's case. At A1 level, you primarily need the Nominative, Accusative, and Dative cases.

Case Summary:

Case	German Name	Role (Job) in the Sentence	Common English Analogy
<u>Nominative</u>	<i>Nominativ</i>	The Subject (who/what is doing the action)	The book is black. Das Buch ist schwarz
<u>Accusative</u>	<i>Akkusativ</i>	The Direct Object (who/what is directly affected by the action)	I see the book. (Ich sehe das Buch)
<u>Dative</u>	<i>Dativ</i>	The Indirect Object (who/what is indirectly affected/receiving something)	I give the man a book. (Often follows prepositions like mit, zu, von)

Subj → action → D.O
I.O
Ich sehe das Buch.
I give the man a book. (Often follows prepositions like mit, zu, von)
(Ich gebe dem Mann ein Buch) der Mann
Ich fahre mit dem Auto nach Berlin.
I.O with D.O towards

(der/die/das)

A. Definite Articles (Der/Die/Das) Declension Table

Notice the bolded endings – these are the key changes!

Case	Masculine (M)	Feminine (F)	Neuter (N)	Plural (Pl)
Nominative	der ein	die eine	das ein	die eine
Accusative	den einen	die eine	das ein	die eine
Dative	dem einem	der einer	dem einem	den****! einen

(der)
↓
(den)

- seit
 - nach
 - mit
 - von
 - aus
 - auf
 - an
 - in
- some case

The BIGGEST Change:

- Only Masculine nouns change their article in the Accusative! (der → den)
 - In the Dative Plural, the article is den AND the noun usually gets an -n ending (if it doesn't already end in -n or -s).
 - Example: die Kinder (Nom.) → den Kindern (Dat.)
children ↑
- der Mann → den Mann

B. Indefinite Articles (*Ein/Eine*) Declension Table

The indefinite articles follow the same ending pattern as the definite ones (except for the lack of a plural form).

Case	Masculine (M)	Feminine (F)	Neuter (N)	Plural (Pl)
Nominative	<u>ein</u>	<u>eine</u>	<u>ein</u>	No Indefinite Article ✗
Accusative	<u>einen</u>	<u>eine</u>	<u>ein</u>	No Indefinite Article ✗
Dative	<u>einem</u>	<u>einer</u>	<u>einem</u>	No Indefinite Article ✗

a Book

4. Examples in Sentences

Sentence	Case Used	Article & Noun	Translation/Explanation
<i>Der</i> Mann ist groß.	Nominative (Subject)	<i>der</i> Mann (Masc.)	The man is tall.
Ich sehe <i>den</i> Mann.	Accusative (Direct Object)	<i>den</i> Mann (Masc.)	I see the man. (<i>der</i> → <i>den</i>)
Ich gebe <i>der</i> Frau ein Buch.	Dative (Indirect Object)	<i>der</i> Frau (Fem.)	I give the woman a book.
Wir fahren <i>mit einem</i> Auto.	Dative (After <i>mit</i>)	<i>einem</i> Auto (Neut.)	We drive with a car.

- Der Mann ist groß
- Ich sehe den Mann
- Ich gebe der Frau ein Buch.
- Wir fahren mit einem/dem Auto.