

Articles (Artikel)

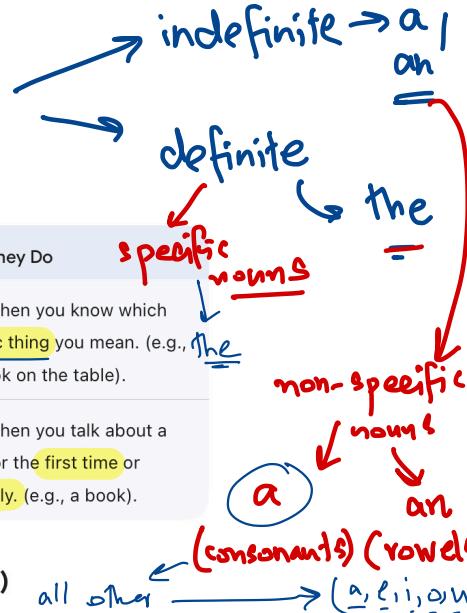
1. What Are Articles? 🤔

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 <u>thing</u> for the first time 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	<u>der</u> (<u>Mann</u>) <u>the man</u>	<u>ein</u> <u>a Man</u> <u>Mann</u>	<i>der Mann (theman) / ein Mann (aman)</i>
Feminine	<u>die</u> (<u>Frau</u>) <u>the woman</u>	<u>eine</u> <u>a Woman</u> <u>eine Frau</u>	<i>die Frau (thewoman) / eine Frau (awoman)</i>
Neuter	<u>das</u> (<u>Auto</u>) <u>the car</u>	<u>ein</u> <u>a Car</u> <u>ein Auto</u>	<i>das Kind (thechild) / ein Kind (achild)</i>
Plural	<u>die</u> (<u>Bücher</u>) <u>the books</u>	<u>(None)</u>	<i>die Kinder (thechildren) / (No "a" in plural!)</i>



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>	<u>Nominativ</u>	The Subject (who/what is doing the action)	The book is black. <u>Das Buch ist schwarz</u>
<u>Accusative</u>	<u>Akkusativ</u>	The Direct Object (who/what is directly affected by the action)	I see the book. <u>(Ich sehe das Buch)</u>
<u>Dative</u>	<u>Dativ</u>	The Indirect Object (who/what is indirectly affected/receiving something)	I give the man a book. (Often follows prepositions like <i>mit</i>, <i>zu</i>, <i>von</i>) <u>(Ich gebe dem Mann ein Buch)</u>

(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	<u>der</u> <u>ein</u>	<u>die</u> <u>eine</u>	<u>das</u> <u>ein</u>	<u>die</u> <u>eine</u>
Accusative	<u>den</u> <u>einen</u>	<u>die</u> <u>eine</u>	<u>das</u> <u>ein</u>	<u>die</u> <u>eine</u>
Dative	<u>dem</u> <u>einem</u>	<u>der</u> <u>einer</u>	<u>dem</u> <u>einem</u>	<u>den****!</u> <u>einen</u>

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 ↑

Subj action D.O
I see the book.
(Ich sehe das Buch)

I O 1.0

- seit

- nach

- mit

- von

- aus

- auf

- am

- in

some

case

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 <u>X</u>
Accusative	<u>einen</u>	<u>eine</u>	<u>ein</u>	No Indefinite Article <u>X</u>
Dative	<u>einem</u>	<u>einer</u>	<u>einem</u>	No Indefinite Article <u>X</u>

a Book

4. Examples in Sentences

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