

Fall → Fälle

Fälle

CASES

Nominative

Accusative

Dative

Genitive

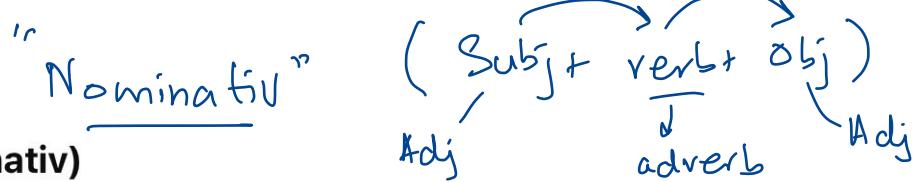
Subject

Direct Object

Indirect Object

Possessive

1. The Nominative Case (Nominativ)



Easy Definition: The **Nominativ** is the **hero** of the sentence. It is the **person or thing** that is doing the action. It answers the question: "**Who or what is doing this?**" (Wer oder was?)

You will always find the **subject of a sentence** in the **Nominativ case**.

Easy Examples:

- Der Mann liest ein Buch. (Who is reading? → Der Mann)
- Die Frau kocht. (Who is cooking? → Die Frau)
- Das Kind spielt. (Who is playing? → Das Kind)
- Die Kinder lernen Deutsch. (Who is learning? → Die Kinder)

Notice that the articles (**der, die, das**) look just like you learned them in the dictionary. The **Nominativ** is the **simplest case**!

Special Verbs that **ALWAYS** use the Nominative

Some very important verbs don't describe an action, but a **state of being**. These verbs are like an equals sign (=). They connect the subject to another noun in the Nominative case.

The most important ones are:

- 1 • **sein** (to be) — bin, ist, sind / seid, bist
- 2 • **werden** (to become)
- 3 • **bleiben** (to stay)
- 4 • **heißen** (to be called)

With these verbs, both the subject and the complement on the other side of the verb are in the **Nominative**.

Examples:

- Der Mann **ist** ein Lehrer.
(The man is a teacher.) → "Der Mann" = "ein Lehrer" (Both Nominative)
- Sie **wird** eine Ärztin.
(She is becoming a doctor.) → "Sie" = "eine Ärztin" (Both Nominative)

- Ich bleibe der Chef.

(I remain the boss.) → "Ich" = "der Chef" (Both Nominative)

- Das heißt ein Haus.

(That is called a house.) → "Das" = "ein Haus" (Both Nominative)

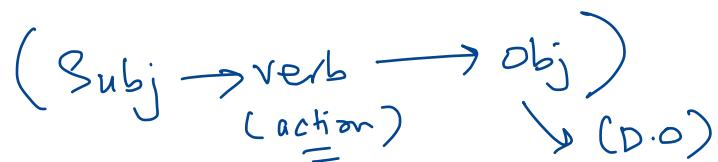
Table: Articles in the Nominativ

	Masculine (der)	Feminine (die)	Neutral (das)	Plural (die)
Definite Article	der	die	das	die
Indefinite Article	ein	eine	ein	- (no article)

- Definite Article = "the"

- Indefinite Article = "a/an"

2. The Accusative Case (Akkusativ)



Easy Definition: The Akkusativ is the **direct object** of the sentence. It is the person or thing that is **directly receiving the action** from the verb. It answers the question: "Who or what is being verb-ed?" (Wen oder was?)

Easy Examples:

- Der Mann **liest ein Buch**. (What is being read? → ein Buch)
- Ich **sehe den Hund**. (What do I see? → den Hund)
- Er **kauft eine Pizza**. (What is he buying? → eine Pizza)
- Sie **trinkt das Wasser**. (What is she drinking? → das Wasser)

Did you see the change? Only the **masculine article** changes in the Akkusativ: **der** becomes **den**. Everything else stays the same as in the Nominativ!

Table: Articles in the Akkusativ

	Masculine (der)	Feminine (die)	Neutral (das)	Plural (die)
Definite Article	den <i>der</i>	die	das	die
Indefinite Article	einen <i>ein</i>	eine	ein	-

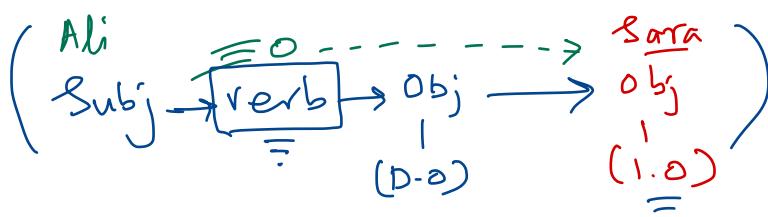
Important Prepositions for Akkusativ:

Some prepositions *always* force the noun that follows into the Akkusativ case. Here are the most common ones for A1:

- durch (through)
- für (for)
- gegen (against)
- ohne (without)
- um (around, at [a time])

Examples:

- Das Geschenk ist **für** den Mann. (The present is for the man.)
- Ich fahre **ohne** meine Kinder. (I'm driving without my children.)
- Er läuft **um** den Park. (He runs around the park.)



3. The Dative Case (Dativ)

Easy Definition: The Dativ is the **indirect object** of the sentence. It is usually the **person or thing that is receiving the direct object or benefiting from the action**. It answers the question: "To whom or for whom is something being done?" (Wem?)

A great trick in English is to look for "to" or "for", even if it's not always stated.

Easy Examples:

die Frau

- Der Mann **gibt der Frau** das Buch. (To whom does he give the book? → **der Frau**)
- Ich **schenke meinem Kind** ein Spiel. (To whom do I give a toy? → **meinem Kind**)
- Er hilft **dem Freund**. (To whom does he help? → **dem Freund**)
- Sie **antwortet der Lehrerin**. (To whom does she answer? → **der Lehrerin**)

The Dative case has more changes. Look at the table below.

Table: Articles in the Dativ

	Masculine (der) - m	Feminine (die) - r	Neutral (das) - n	Plural (die) - n
Definite Article	dem	der	dem	den
Indefinite Article	einem	einer	einem	-

Notice:

- Masculine and Neutral both become **dem**.
- Feminine becomes **der**.
- Plural always becomes **den** (and often adds an -n to the noun if possible, e.g., *den Kinder*n**).

Important Prepositions for Dativ:

Some prepositions *always* force the noun that follows into the Dativ case. Here are most common ones for A1:

- **aus** (from, out of)
- **außer** (except for)
- **bei** (at, near)
- **mit** (with)
- **nach** (after, to [a city/country])
- **seit** (since, for)
- **von** (from, of)
- **zu** (to)
- **gegenüber** (opposite) - *Usually comes after the noun.*

Examples:

Ich komme aus der Türkei

- Ich komme aus dem Haus. (I come out of the house.)
- Er fährt mit dem Bus. (He travels with the bus.)
- Wir gehen zu der Freundin. (We are going to the friend's place.)
- Das Café ist gegenüber dem Park. (The café is opposite the park.)

1. **antworten** (to answer)
2. **danken** (to thank)
3. **folgen** (to follow)
4. **gefallen** (to be pleasing to, to like)
5. **gehören** (to belong to)
6. **glauben** (to believe)
7. **helfen** (to help)
8. **passieren** (to happen to someone)
9. **passen** (to fit, to suit)
10. **schmecken** (to taste good to)
11. **weh tun** (to hurt)

Nominativ

Dat

REVIEW

Sentence: Der Junge gibt dem Mädchen den Apfel. — Akk
(The boy gives the girl the apple.)

1. Nominativ (Wer?): Der Junge

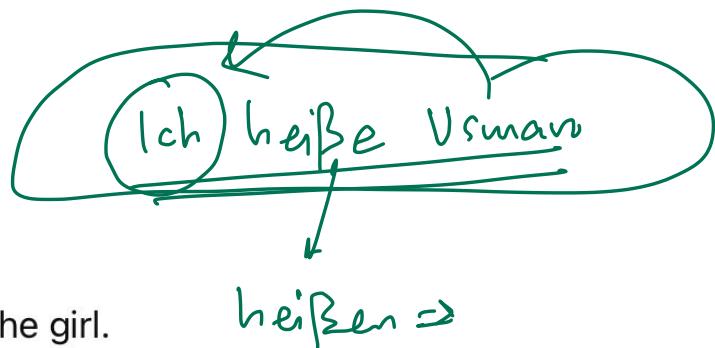
- Who is doing the giving? → The boy.

2. Dativ (Wem?): dem Mädchen

- To whom is he giving the apple? → To the girl.

3. Akkusativ (Wen/Was?): den Apfel

- What is being given? → The apple.



TIPS :

- Nominativ = Subject. The article looks normal. Remember the "equals sign" verbs: sein, werden, bleiben, heißen.
- Akkusativ = Direct Object. Only the masculine article changes (der → den).
- Dativ = Indirect Object. The articles change a lot (der/das → dem, die → der, plural → den).