

Grammar Explanations

Lektion 4: Der Tisch ist schön!

Definite article der / das / die

A **definite article** is used before a noun that refers to a **particular** person, place, animal, thing or idea. In English, there is one definite article **the**. In German, there are three definite article forms for singular and one common for plural.

Der Tisch ist klein. **The** table is small.
Das Bett ist groß. **The** bed is big.
Die Lampe ist schön. **The** lamp is beautiful.



In German, **every noun has a gender**. Things, animals, places or ideas are not automatically neutral. For example the table is masculine → der Tisch, the bed is neutral → das Bett and the lamp is feminine → die Lampe. The article must agree with the gender.

In plural the gender doesn't cause any difficulties. The article **die** is used with masculine, neuter and feminine plural nouns.

Die Tische sind klein. **The** tables are small.
Die Betten sind groß. **The** beds are big.
Die Lampen sind schön. **The** lamps are beautiful.



	masculine	neutral	feminine
singular	der	das	die
plural	die	die	die

Personal pronoun er / es / sie

In English, referring to one thing, animal or idea, we use the pronoun **it**. In German the pronoun we use depends on the noun's gender.

	masculine	neutral	feminine
definite article	der	das	die
personal pronoun	er	es	sie

Der Tisch ist modern. **Er** kostet 120 Euro. **The** table is modern. **It** costs 120 euros.
Das Bett ist praktisch. **Es** kostet 200 Euro. **The** bed is practical. **It** costs 200 euros.
Die Lampe ist schön. **Sie** kostet 50 Euro. **The** lamp is beautiful. **It** costs 50 euros.

Numbers 100 – 1 000 000

In all numbers over one hundred all tens and units are also always read "backwards" and connected by und. There is no other "and" part connecting any numbers. Numbers up to one million are written together as one word.



100 (ein)hundert

105 (ein)hundertfünf (no "and"!)

123 (ein)hundert**dreißig**

1000 (ein)tausend

1234 (ein)tausendzweihundert**vierunddreißig**

23 456 dreiundzwanzigtausendvierhundertsechsfünzig

1 000 000 eine Million (separate word, capital letter!)

Prices

Writing and reading prices is the same as in English. Euro is written after the complete amount (euros and cents), but read after euros, before cents.

9.99 Euro → neun **Euro** neunundneunzig

Particle denn

If **denn** appears in a question, it has no meaning on its own. It indicates a real interest of the person asking the question and makes the question sound friendlier.

Wie viel kostet **denn** die Lampe? How much does the lamp cost?

Lektion 5: Was ist das? Das ist ein F.

Indefinite article ein / eine

An **indefinite article** is used before a noun that refers to an **unspecified** person, thing, animal, place or idea. The article has to agree with the noun's gender. In plural there is no indefinite article.



Das ist **ein** Tisch.

This is a table.

Das sind Tische.

These are tables.

Das ist **ein** Bett.

This is a bed.

Das sind Betten.

These are beds.

Das ist **eine** Lampe.

This is a lamp.

Das sind Lampen.

These are lamps.

	masculine	neutral	feminine
singular	ein	ein	eine

Sometimes there is a difference between English and German, **when** we use the article and when we don't. For example referring to professions:

Ich bin Journalistin.

I am **a** journalist.

Er ist Architekt.

He is **an** architect.

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Negative article kein/e

To negate an unspecified noun, we use the negative form **kein** or **keine**. It looks like a modified indefinite article (with „k“ in front).

The negative article has to agree with the noun's gender. The negative article has a plural form!

Das ist **kein** Tisch! This is **not** a table!

Das ist **kein** Bett! This is **not** a bed!

Das ist **keine** Lampe! This is **not** a lamp!

	masculine	neutral	feminine
singular	kein	kein	keine
plural	keine	keine	keine

„Heißen“ in a different meaning than “to be called”

Heißen not only refers to a name, it can also refer to the meaning.

Was **heißt** das auf Deutsch? What does it **mean** in German?



Lektion 6: Ich brauche kein Büro.

Singular and plural

In German, some nouns form their plural like in English by adding -s. But most nouns form their plural in different ways. The best way is always to check in a dictionary and then learn the noun together with the article and the plural form.

plural forming	Singular	Plural
-s	das Sofa	die Sofas
-(e)n	die Uhr	die Uhren
-e	der Stift	die Stifte
-e	der Schrank	die Schränke
-er	das Bild	die Bilder
-(e)r	das Buch	die Bücher
-(no change)	der Kalender	die Kalender
-(Umlaut only)	die Mutter	die Mütter

