Rules 📄

**17.**

Pronouns

Possessive adjectives show possession or belonging. Their endings are adapted to the noun to which they refer.

For **masculine** nouns in the **singular**, **no additional endings** are added:

**der** Vater - **mein** Vater

the father - my father

der Bruder - **dein** Bruder

the brother - your (sg., informal) brother

der Vater - **sein** Vater

the father - his father

der Cousin - **dein** Cousin

the (male) cousin - your (male) cousin

der Bruder - **ihr** Bruder

the brother - her brother

* The same is true for neuter nouns in the singular, e.g. das Kind - unser Kind (the child - our child).

When referring to **feminine** words, just add an **-e** to the possessive adjective:

**die** Mutter - **meine** Mutter

the mother - my mother

die Schwester - **deine** Schwester

the sister - your (sg., informal) sister

die Schwester - **unsere** Schwester

the sister - our sister

die Mutter – **meine** Schwester

the mother - my mother

die Tante - **eure** Tante

the aunt - your (pl., informal) aunt

* Did you notice? The only exception is **euer - eure**. The second e is dropped for the feminine form.

**Extension.**

Good news! The possessive adjectives referring to **plural** words are the **same** as the **feminine** adjectives.

**deine** Tanten

your aunts

**ihre** Brüder / Schwestern

**her / their**  brothers / sisters

**eure** Schwestern

your sisters

**meine** Brüder

my brothers

**unsere** Tanten

our aunts

**deine** Cousins

your (sg., informal) cousins

**seine** Cousinen

his cousins

**meine** Mütter – **mein** Väter

my mothers - my fathers

Memory Boost

You **add** an **e** to the **masculine** form of possessive adjectives to make them **feminine**. (**meine** Mutter , **mein** Vater)

The word **meine** cannot refer to a noun in the masculine singular.

The possessive adjectives in the **feminine** and **plural** **masculine** are the **same**.

**Extension.**

You already know that some verbs take the accusative case and that **masculine articles** following these verbs change from **der/ein** to **den/einen**.

Ich habe **eine** Tochter und **einen** Sohn.

I have a daughter and a son.

* The feminine, neuter and plural adjectives don't change in the accusative.

Some prepositions, like **ohne** (without) and **für** (for) also require the accusative. Just add **-en** to the **masculine** possessive adjective.

Ich bin ohne **meinen** Freund und ohne meine Schwester hier.

I am here without my boyfriend and without my sister.

* The feminine, neuter and plural adjectives don't change in the accusative.

Das Geschenk ist für **deinen** Bruder und für deine Schwester.

The present is for your brother and for your sister.

Der Kuchen ist für **euren** Großvater und eure Großmutter.

The cake is for your grandfather and your grandmother.

* Do you remember? In the **feminine** and **plural** forms, **euer** changes to **eure**. This also applies to the accusative, where the masculine singular form of euer changes to euren.

**18.**

German Pronunciation: "s", "ß"

* This buzzing s sound also appears between **l, m, n, ng, r** and a vowel, e.g. la**ng**s**a**m (slow).
* The double letter **ss** also sounds like the s in **salad**. In southern Germany all s sounds are pronounced like this.

At the **beginning** of **words** and **syllables**, the letter **s** is pronounced like the **z in zoo.**

sechs, zusammen

six, together

In every other position, the German s sounds like the **s in salad**.

Bus, Hotels

bus, hotels

The **ß (called Eszett)** sounds like the **s** in salad as well. It can be in **any position** of a word, **except at the very beginning**.

heißen, Straße

to be called, street

**19.**

German Pronunciation: "st" and "sch"

* People from northern Germany often pronounce all st sounds like in fast. People from the Swabian region tend to pronounce every st like scht.

The German **sch** is pronounced like the English **sh in sheep**.

Schweiz, Tasche

Switzerland, bag

At the **beginning** of **words** and **syllables**, **st** sounds like **sch + t**.

Stuttgart, umsteigen

Stuttgart (German city), to change (trains/buses)

In **every** other position, **st** sounds like **st in fast**.

kosten, du hast

to cost, you have

zu Hau**s**e

**S**aft

**s**ieben

like z in zoo

Hau**s**

Fü**ß**e

gro**ß**

like s in salad

**Sch**weden

Sweden

Engli**sch**

English

**St**ein

stone

like sh in sheep (+ t)

du bi**st**

you are

du mach**st**

you make

fa**st**

almost

like st in fast

**20.**

German Pronunciation: "au", äu" and "eu"

The German au sounds similar to the English **ow in brown**.

ein **Au**to k**au**fen

to buy a car

The pronunciation of **äu** and **eu** is nearly the same. It is similar to the English **oy** in **boy**.

n**eu**n d**eu**tsche Fr**äu**lein

nine German misses

* Calling **unmarried** women Fräulein sounds very old-fashioned in German - adult women are called **Frau** nowadays.

auch

sauber

Augsburg

like ow in brown

Räuber

Deutschland

Europa

like oy in boy

**21.**

Numbers 30-100

* Did you notice? In German, numbers are written as one word without spaces or hyphens.

zwanzig + fünfzig = siebzig

20 + 50 = 70

achtzig + zwanzig = hundert

80 + 20 = 100

hundert - zehn = neunzig

100 - 10 = 90

Numbers in German are formed differently to numbers in English.

The **unit** comes **before the ten**

and

the two numbers are **joined** with **und**. So twenty-five is **fünfundzwanzig** (lit. fiveandtwenty).

51 = **ein**und**fünfzig**

* For numbers like 21, 31, etc., the s in eins is dropped.

43 = **drei**und**vierzig**

84 = **vier**und**achtzig**

96 = **sechs**und**neunzig**

36

87

78

63

52

25

sechsunddreißig

siebenundachtzig

achtundsiebzig

dreiundsechzig

zweiundfünfzig

fünfundzwanzig

achtundneunzig

98

neunundachtzig

89

vierundzwanzig

24

siebenundsechzig

67

dreiundsiebzig

73

fünfundfünfzig

55

**22.**

The expression Es gibt

**Es gibt** is a very useful expression, meaning ***there is*** or ***there are***. It can refer to **nouns** in both the **singular** and **plural**.

Es gibt ein gutes Restaurant.

There is a good restaurant.

Es gibt Flüsse und Seen.

There are rivers and lakes.

**Es gibt** is **followed** **by** the **accusative**, therefore **einen** is used when referring to a **masculine** noun.

**ein** Fluss - Es gibt **einen** Fluss.

a river - There is a river.

Negation with kein

* You already know the third German negation word, nein, which is used to answer yes/no questions: Ist das Museum gut? - Nein. Or Nein, es ist nicht gut.

To negate a noun with an **indefinite article** (*ein/eine/einen*) or **no article**, you use **kein**.

Das ist **ein** Theater. - Das ist **kein** Theater.

This is a theater. - This is not a theater.

Es gibt **eine** Oper. - Es gibt **keine** Oper.

There is an opera. - There is not an opera.

Es gibt Flüsse. - Es gibt keine Flüsse.

There are rivers. - There are no rivers.

Negation with kein

To *negate* all other kinds of sentences (referring to **adjectives** or **nouns** with **definite articles**), you use **nicht**.

Das Museum ist **gut**. - Das Museum ist nicht gut.

The museum is good. - The museum is not good.

Das ist **die** Spree. - Das ist nicht die Spree.

This is the Spree. - This is not the Spree.

Das ist der Wannsee. - Das ist **nicht** der Wannsee.

This is the Wannsee. - This is not the Wannsee.

Es gibt ein Theater. - Es gibt **kein** Theater.

There is a theater. - There is no theater.

Ist das eine Kneipe? - Nein, das ist **keine** Kneipe.

Is that a bar? - No, that is not a bar.

Ist das der Reichstag? - Nein, das ist **nicht** der Reichstag.

Is that the Reichstag (parliament building)? No, that is not the Reichstag.

Es gibt Museen. - Es gibt **keine** Museen.

There are museums. - There are no museums.

The endings of kein in the accusative case

The word **kein** takes the same endings as **ein**:

Das ist **ein** Club und ein Museum. - Das ist **kein** Club und kein Museum.

This is a club and a museum. - This is not a club and not a museum.

* Masculine (der Club) and neuter (das Museum) nouns use kein in the nominative case.

Das ist **eine** Oper. - Das ist **keine** Oper.

This is an opera. - This is not an opera.

* Feminine nouns (die Oper) always use keine.

Nouns in the **plural** always use **keine**:

Das sind Parks. - Das sind **keine** Parks.

These are parks. - These are not parks.

In the accusative case, **keinen** is used when referring to masculine words:

Es gibt **einen** See. - Es gibt **keinen** See. (der See)

There is a lake. - There is no lake.

* Do you remember? Es gibt is always followed by the accusative, like certain verbs (haben, essen…) and prepositions (für, ohne...).

For **feminine**, **neuter** and **plural** nouns, the nominative endings are used in the accusative as well. Only the **masculine** form **changes** to **keinen** in the accusative.

Es gibt **ein** Meer. - Es gibt **kein** Meer. (das Meer)

There is a sea. - There is no sea.

Es gibt **eine** Kneipe. - Es gibt **keine** Kneipe. (die Kneipe)

There is a bar. - There is no bar.

Es gibt Clubs. - Es gibt **keine** Clubs. (der Club)

There are clubs. - There are no clubs.

Es gibt can refer to words in the **singular or plural.**

* Es gibt Parks und es gibt einen See.

The negation word **kein** replaces **ein** in negated sentences.

* Das ist ein Park. - Das ist kein Park. It is also used in front of nouns without an article: Ich habe Geld. - Ich habe kein Geld. (I have money. - I don't have money.)

Es gibt takes the accusative case, therefore **kein** becomes **keinen** in front of **masculine** **singular** **nouns**.

* Es gibt einen See. - Es gibt keinen See.

To *negate* **adjectives** and **nouns** with definite articles you use **nicht**.

* Das ist gut. - Das ist nicht gut. - Das ist das Meer. - Das ist nicht das Meer.
* Did you notice? In German, numbers are written as one word without spaces or hyphens.

**23.**

The imperative in the polite form

The imperative form is used for commands and requests. The polite form is really easy, just put the formal Sie **after** the 3rd person plural form of the verb.

**Sie** gehen geradeaus. - **Gehen** Sie geradeaus!

You (formal) go straight ahead. Go straight ahead!

Sie überqueren die Straße. - **Überqueren** Sie die Straße!

You (formal) cross the street. Cross the street!

Sie biegen ab. - **Biegen** Sie ab!

You (formal) turn. Turn!

The informal imperative

For informal commands and requests, there is a **du** and an **ihr** form. For the **ihr** form (2nd person plural), the imperative is the same as the present tense, **just drop ihr**.

**Ihr** geht geradeaus. - **Geht** geradeaus!

You go straight ahead. Go straight ahead!

**Ihr** überquert die Straße. - **Überquert** die Straße!

You cross the street. Cross the street!

* There is another, equally correct, variation of the du imperative. You can add an -e to the stem of most verbs. Gehe geradeaus! Überquere die Straße!
* Did you notice? When using the imperative, **umlauts (ä ü ö ß)**  are **removed** in the **2nd** and **3rd** person **singular**.

**du** For the 2nd person singular, you use the present tense form for du and **drop** the **ending st**. As with ihr, you **drop** the **du**, too.

**Du** gehst geradeaus. - **Geh/Gehe** geradeaus!

You go straight ahead. Go straight ahead!

Du fährst über die Straße. - **Fahr/Fahre** über die Straße!

You go across (lit. over) the street. Go across (lit. over) the street!

**Geht** ins Alte Museum!

Go (pl.) to the Altes Museum!

**Fahr** nicht Auto!

Don't go (sg.) by car!

**Kommt** nach Kreuzberg!

Come (pl.) to Kreuzberg!

* Kreuzberg is a district of Berlin.

**Überquer** den Landwehrkanal!

Cross (sg.) the Landwehr Canal!

Memory Boost

* The personal pronoun is required in the **formal** imperative.
  + - Geh geradeaus! - Geht geradeaus!
* However, there is *no personal pronoun* in **informal** sentences.
  + - Geh geradeaus! - Geht geradeaus!
* For the **ihr** and **Sie** form in the imperative, you use the usual present tense forms.
  + - Fahren Sie links! - Fahrt geradeaus!
* For the **du** form, you *drop the ending* and you can *add an extra* ***-e*** to most verbs.
  + - Fahr(e) nach Berlin!

**24.**

The imperative in the polite form

* Guten Tag all day long.
* If you're not feeling so well, you can just say: Mir geht's nicht gut.