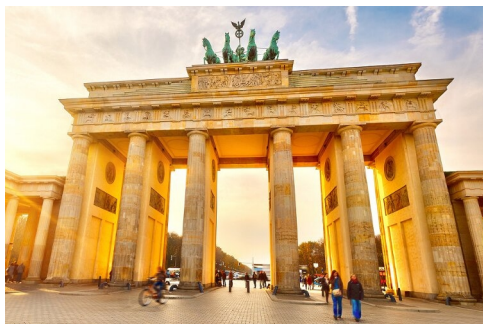


17 Minute Languages:

German Grammar at a glance!



Definite and indefinite article in German:

German has **three** grammatical **gender**– a **masculine**, a **feminine** and a **neuter** gender.

That's the first challenge for any English native speaker who starts out learning German.

Please familiarise yourself with the two forms of the article in German – there is a **definite** and an **indefinite** article.

We use the definite article whenever we combine a noun in English with 'the'.

Example:

the speaker – **der** Lautsprecher (masculine)

the cup – **die** Tasse (feminine)

the car – **das** Auto (neuter)

The indefinite article in German corresponds with 'a' and 'an' in English.

Example:

a speaker – **ein** Lautsprecher (masculine)

a cup – **eine** Tasse (feminine)

a car – **ein** Auto (neuter)

Both articles have to adjust to the noun that they refer to in gender (masculine, feminine or neuter), grammatical number (singular or plural) and case (nominative, genitive, dative or accusative).

The definite article in German

Let's take a closer look at the declension of the definite article in German:

The definite article in German				
	masculine	feminine	neuter	plural
nominative	der	die	das	die
genitive	des	der	des	der
dative	dem	der	dem	den
accusative	den	die	das	die

The fact that in plural there is only one form for any gender should make this a bit easier for you to remember.

Let's take a closer look at an example:
das Haus – the house

Example:		
	singular	plural
NOM	das Haus Das Haus ist groß. The house is big.	die Häuser Die Häuser sind groß. The houses are big.
GEN	des Hauses das Dach des Hauses the roof of the house	der Häuser die Dächer der Häuser the roof of the houses
DAT	dem Haus	den Häusern
ACC	das Haus Ich besitze das Haus. I own the house.	die Häuser Ich besitze die Häuser. I own the houses.

Exercise:

Please follow our example and set up tables for the masculine and the feminine form of the article.

Use of the definite article in German:

There are some rules that apply to the use of the definite article in German:

(1) In German, we have to use the definite article with a person or object that is already known to the speaker.

Example:

Die Frau geht mit dem Kind in die Stadt.

The woman takes the child downtown.

(2) The definite article refers to a subject that is unique and only exists once.

Example:

Die Donau fließt durch Deutschland.

The Danube flows through Germany.

(3) In German, we also use the definite article, when naming the date – with this concept German differs from English.

Please take a closer look at the example.

Heute ist der 20. August.

Today is the 20th of August.

(4) German uses the definite article together with the [superlative](#).

Example:

Das älteste Mitglied heißt Johannes.

The eldest member is named Johannes.

Let's move on to the [indefinite article](#).

The indefinite article in German

The indefinite article in German			
	masculine	feminine	neuter
nominative	ein	eine	ein
genitive	eines	einer	eines
dative	einem	einer	einem
accusative	einen	einer	ein

Please note that German does not know a plural form for the indefinite article.

If you have to describe unknown persons or objects in the plural, you have to help yourself with alternatives.

Example:

Some people travel a lot.

Can be translated to:

Manche Leute reisen viel. / Einige Leute reisen viel.

Use of the indefinite article in German:

The indefinite article is used when we encounter a person or an object for the very first time and therefore it is unknown to the speaker.

Example:

Eine Frau geht einkaufen.

A woman goes grocery shopping.

Ein Rad steht auf der Straße.

A bicycle is on the street.

Omitting the article in German:

There are some cases when German omits the use of the article together with a noun:

(1) names of persons, addressing a person, academic titles

Example:

Das ist das Büro von Frau Huber und Herrn Mayer.

This is the office of Ms Huber and Mr Mayer.

(2) with professions

(Please be careful and compare this to the use in English as it is different.)

Example:

Carolina ist Lehrerin.

Carolina is **a** teacher.

Stefan arbeitet als Ingenieur.

Stefan works as **an** engineer.

(3) with continents, nationalities, countries and names of cities

Example:

Ich war noch nie in Asien.

I have never been to Asia.

Juan ist Spanier.

Juan is Spanish.

(4) with measures, size and quantity, we use the indefinite article.

Example:

Susanne hätte gerne eine Tasse Kaffee.

Susanne likes to have a cup of coffee.

(5) with abstract nouns

Example:

Ich leide an Hunger und Durst.

I am suffering from hunger and thirst.

(6) with fabrics and materials

Example:

Die Möbel sind aus Holz und Kunststoff.

The furniture is made of wood and plastics.

Nouns in German:

In German each and every noun has a grammatical gender.

We have to distinguish **masculine**, **feminine** and **neuter** German nouns.

As this is very different from English, we strongly advise you:

Please:

Whenever you learn a new German noun, look up its gender and learn both by heart.

The easiest way to do this, is to combine the noun with its definite article.

Example:

burglar – **der** Einbrecher (**masculine**)

friendship – **die** Freundschaft (**feminine**)

parliament – **das** Parlament (**neuter**)

We want to provide you with some rules of thumb that will help you to find out about the gender of German nouns:

Rules for telling grammatical gender in German nouns:		
masculine nouns	feminine nouns	neuter nouns
grammatical gender = natural gender		
ending in: -er -en -m -ig -ling	ending in: -e -ei -keit -heit -schaft -ung	ending in: -ment -nis -tum -um
loanwords ending in: -or -ismus	loanwords ending in: -ät -ik	diminutive forms ending in: -chen

-ist	-ion -ie -ur -enz	-lein
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Plural of German nouns:

Zwei Bier, bitte – how to build the German plural

If you visit Germany and you would like to order more than one beer ...
... hence knowing how to build the plural forms of German nouns comes in handy.

Here we present you with the rules for building a regular plural.

Please note that later on you have to deal with some exceptions as [some nouns don't take a plural form](#).

(1) Building the plural by **adding an -e** to the end of the noun

- **masculine**, monosyllabic nouns

Example:

Tisch → Tische

table → tables

- **masculine** nouns ending in -ling:

Example:

Feigling → Feiglinge

coward → cowards

- **feminine**, monosyllabic nouns:

Example:

Sucht → Süchte

(Please note that German plural forms often change a vowel into an umlaut. Here the 'u' changes into 'ü'.)

(2) Building the plural with a plural **ending in -n and -en**:

- **feminine** nouns that end in a vowel sound:

Example:

Idee → Ideen

idea → ideas

- **feminine** nouns with a consonant at the end:

Example:

Tür → Türen

door → doors

- **masculine** nouns for living beings:

Example:

Löwe → Löwen

lion → lions

(3) Building the plural form with -er at the end:

- **neuter**, monosyllabic nouns

(Please note:

The vowel in those nouns switches to a so called umlaut (ä, ö, ü).)

Example:

Haus → Häuser

house → houses

(4) Adding a -s at the end to form the plural

This rule applies to nouns ending in -a, -i, -o or -u:

Example:

Mama → Mamas

mommy → mommies

Auto → Autos

car → cars

Exception – nouns that don't take a plural form:

There are some German nouns that do not take a plural ending.

They stay the same in singular – and in plural.

The context of a sentence will tell you whether one or multiple person(s) or object(s) are the topic of the conversation.

(1) In this category we find nouns ending in -chen and -lein.

Please note that these forms mark the German diminutive form.

Example:

das Kätzchen → die Kätzchen

small cat → small cats

das Kindlein → die Kindlein

young child → young children

(2) Nouns ending in -el, -er or -en stay the same in singular and plural.

Please note that the vowel in the word's stem has to change to mark the plural.

The vowels -a, -o and -u change to -ä, -ö and -ü.

Example:

die Mutter → die Mütter

mother → mothers

der Vater → die Väter

father → fathers

We advice you to learn these few words and their plural by heart.

The four cases of German nouns:

The German language has four different cases.
Every case has a certain task to fulfill within a sentence.

First case: nominative (abbr. NOM)

This case marks the subject of a German sentence.

You will encounter German nouns in the nominative in every dictionary.

When you are looking for a noun in the nominative in a sentence, you use the question: Wer oder was? ('who or what?')

Example:

Der deutsche Mann trinkt gerne Bier.

The German man likes to drink beer.

→ Wer trinkt gerne Bier? Der deutsche Mann.

→ Who likes to drink beer? The German man.

Second case: genitive (abbr: GEN)

The genitive marks possession.

If you are looking for a genitive in a German sentence, you ask: Wessen? ('whose?')

Example:

Christines Papa ist nett.

Christine's dad is nice.

→ Wessen Papa ist nett? Christines.

→ Whose dad is nice? Christine's.

Third case: dative (abbr. DAT)

This case marks the indirect object in a sentence.

The question of your choice for that case is: Wem? ('whom?')

Example:

Ich gebe meiner Nichte ein Geschenk.

I give a present to my niece.

→ Wem gebe ich ein Geschenk? Meiner Nichte.

→ Whom do I give a present? My niece.

Fourth case. Accusative (abbr. ACC)

The accusative marks the object in a sentence.

If you are searching for a noun in the accusative in a German sentence, you ask: Wen oder was? ('who or what?')

Example:

Marc liebt die deutsche Sprache.

Marc loves the German language.

→ Wen oder was liebt Marc? Die deutsche Sprache.

→ What does Marc love? The German language.

Maybe you already noticed:

The cases are marked by different ending in the nouns.

German nouns follow a certain system and rules in taking the endings for the different cases. Linguists like to call that system 'declension'.

When learning German, knowing these rules is key. So, please, take a close look at the following chapter.

German nouns and their groups of declension

1st group of declension

In this group, we will find most of the **masculine** and **neuter** German nouns. Let's try out the declension and take a look at the different endings in the four German cases.

We will show you the masculine noun “der Tisch” (en.: table) as an example.

Group 1 – example: der Tisch (en. table)		
case	singular	plural
NOM	der Tisch	die Tische
GEN	des Tisches	der Tische
DAT	dem Tisch	den Tischen
ACC	den Tisch	die Tische

Exception:

The noun “das Herz” (en.: heart) is an exception – its declension follows the rules of the second group.

So, let's move on and take a look at that second group:

2nd group of declension

This group collects all **masculine** nouns ending in -e.

Group 2 – example: der Gedanke (en. thought)		
case	singular	plural
NOM	der Gedanke	die Gedanken
GEN	des Gedankens	der Gedanken

DAT	dem Gedanken	den Gedanken
ACC	den Gedanken	die Gedanken

3rd group of declension (**feminine** nouns):

Nouns belonging to that group do not change in their endings.

There is only one exception to that rule of thumb: In the dative case, they take an -n with the plural form.

Group 3 – example: die Not (en. hardship)		
case	singular	plural
NOM	die Not	die Nöte
GEN	der Not	der Nöte
DAT	der Not	den Nöten
ACC	die Not	die Nöte

4th group of declension

In the fourth group, we find **masculine** German nouns ending in:

- ant (Example. der Praktikant – apprentice)
- ent (Example. der Student – student)
- ist (Example. der Pianist – pianist)
- at
- orge
- ot (Example. der Pilot – pilot)
- graf (Example. der Fotograf – photographer)

Group 4 – example: der Student (en. student)		
case	singular	plural
NOM	der Student	die Studenten

GEN	des Student en	der Student en
DAT	dem Student en	den Student en
ACC	den Student en	die Student en

German adjectives:

Declension of adjectives

German adjectives adjust to the word they modify:
They change in case (nominative, genitive, dative, accusative), number (singular and plural) and grammatical sex (masculine, feminine and neuter).

Please note:

When using an adjective, you have to make one further distinction.
You must pay attention whether the adjective is found after a definite or indefinite article – or is used without an article.

Declension of adjectives following the definite article:

Singular			
	masculine	feminine	neuter
NOM	-e der große Baum	-e die große Eiche	-e das große Tier
GEN	-en des großen Baums	-en der großen Eiche	-en des großen Tiers
DAT	-en dem großen Baum	-en der großen Eiche	-en dem großen Tier
ACC	-en den großen Baum	-e die große Eiche	-e das große Tier

Plural	
NOM	-en die großen Tiere Die großen Tiere sind am Flußufer.

	The big animals are at the river shore.
GEN	-en der großen Tiere Der Hunger der großen Tiere muss gestillt werden. The hunger of the big animals must be satisfied.
DAT	-en den großen Tieren Ich gebe den großen Tieren Futter. I feed the big animals.
ACC	-en die großen Tiere Ich sehe die großen Tiere. I see the big animals.

Declension of adjectives without an article:

	masculine	feminine	neuter	plural
NOM	-er großer Baum	-e große Eiche	-es großes Tier	-e große Tiere
GEN	-en großen Baums	-er großer Eiche	-em großem Tiers	-er großer Tiere
DAT	-em großen Baum	-er großer Eiche	-en großen Tier	-en großen Tieren
ACC	-en großen Baum	-e große Eiche	-es großes Tier	-e große Tiere

The declension of adjectives following a indefinite article:

	masculine	feminine	neuter	plural
NOM	-er ein großer Baum	-e eine große Eiche	-es ein großes Tier	-en keine großen Tiere
GEN	-en eines großen Baumes	-en einer großen Eiche	-en eines großen Tiers	-en keiner großen Tiere
DAT	-en einem großen Baum	-en einer großen Eiche	-en einem großen Tier	-en keinen großen Tieren
ACC	-en einen großen Baum	-e eine große Eiche	-es ein großes Tier	-en keine großen Tiere

Comparison of German adjectives:

German adjectives know three degrees of comparison: the positive form (that you have dealt with so far), the comparative form and the superlative form.

Now, let's take a closer look at the other two degrees:

Building the comparative form:

To build the comparative form of an adjective, follow this rule:
positive form + **-er**

Example:

schnell → schneller

fast → faster

klein → kleiner

small → smaller

Building the superlative form:

To build the superlative form, there are two possibilities:

1. The superlative is introduced with "am", then you add the ending -sten to the basic form of the adjective.

Example:

schnell → **am schnellsten**

fast → fastest

klein → **am kleinsten**

small → smallest

2. You also can build the superlative form together with the definite article following this rule:

definite article (der/die/das) + positive form + -ste

Example:

schnell → **der schnellste**

fast → the fastest

klein → **der kleinste**

small → the smallest

Comparative and superlative are declined like adjectives in their basic form.

Important facts about the German verb system

The German verb system knows six different tenses.

- When talking about the past, we can use:
Imperfekt / [Präteritum](#) (past tense/simple past)
[Perfekt](#) (perfect tense)
[Plusquamperfekt](#) (pluperfect)
- When talking about the present, we use:
[Präsens](#) / Gegenwart
This corresponds to the present tense in English.
- And when taking a look into the future, we use:
[Futur I](#) – [Futur II](#) / vollendete Zukunft (future tenses)

Following the links, you will encounter more detailed information on building and use of those six tenses.

We would like to familiarize you with the German terms for those six tenses so that you can also look them up in a German grammar.

German verbs are distinguished in three different groups:

- **weak verbs:**
Weak German verbs are easy to handle.
They follow the rules – and once you know their pattern, you can use them without any problems.
- **strong verbs:**
Strong German verbs have regular endings – but they tend to change their stem when inflected.
- **irregular verbs:**
Like so many other languages, German has a bunch of irregular verbs.
There is just one way to deal with them – learn them by heart.
To help you succeed in that, this grammar provides you with a list of the [most common irregular German verbs](#).

The basics: sein, haben & werden (German auxiliary verbs)

Let's build some basics – let's get to know the three most important German verbs:

sein (to be), haben (to have) and werden (to become, to get).

All three are irregular verbs.

And the reason why you want to know them by heart is: they are used to build most of the tenses in German.

So if you want to talk about the past or the future, you'll have to use them.

German auxiliary verbs in present tense

	sein (to be)	haben (to have)	werden (to become)
singular			
1st person: ich	bin	habe	werde
2nd person: du	bist	hast	wirst
3rd person: er/sie/es	ist	hat	wird
plural			
1st person: wir	sind	haben	werden
2nd person: ihr	seid	habt	werdet
3rd person: sie/Sie	sind	haben	werden

Present tense (Präsens / Gegenwart)

Just like in the English language, we use the German present tense to describe actions that are happening now, at the moment.

Present tense of strong and weak verbs			
	ending	weak verb (ex. spielen – to play)	strong verb (ex. sprechen – to talk)
singular			
1st person	-e	ich spiele	ich spreche
2nd person	-st	du spielst	du sprichst
3rd person:	-t	er/sie/es spielt	er/sie/es spricht
plural			
1st person	-en	wir spielen	wir sprechen
2nd person:	-t	ihr spielt	ihr sprecht
3rd person:	-en	sie spielen	sie sprechen

Preterit (Präteritum, Imperfekt, 1. Vergangenheit)

You will encounter this past tense mostly in written German or (very) formal speech.

Please note that colloquial German prefers the perfect.

The preterit is used to describe actions that happened in the past.

Preterite of weak and strong German verbs			
	ending	weak verb (ex. spielen – to play)	strong verb (ex. sprechen – to talk)
1st person sg	-te	ich spielte	ich sprach*
2nd person sg	-test	du spieltest	du sprachst
3rd person sg	-te	er/sie/es spielte	er/sie/es sprach*
1st person pl	-ten	wir spielten	wir sprachen
2nd person pl	-tet	ihr spieltet	ihr sprachet
3rd person pl	-ten	sie spielten	sie sprachen

* These forms do not take an ending.

Present participle (Partizip I):

The German present participle refers to the present tense and has the ability to turn a verb into an adjective.

Building the German ‚Partizip I‘ is pretty easy:

You take the infinitive form of the verb – and take away the ending -en.

Then add a new ending: -end

When translating these forms into English, we use the present progressive.

Take a look at these examples:

spielen (to play) → spiel**end** (playing)

sprech**en** (to talk) → sprech**end** (talking)

Past participle (Partizip II):

The German language knows many complex tenses.

To build those, you often use the past participle of a verb.

So, please, pay close attention to this chapter!

The German past participle refers to the past tense.

To construct this form, just follow this simple rule:

Take the infinitive of a verb and put ge- at the beginning.

Then take away the ending -en – and add -t instead.

Take a look at these examples:

spielen (to play) → **gespielt** (played)

haben (to have) → **gehabt** (had)

sagen (to say) → **gesagt** (said)

Please note:

There are a bunch of exceptions to that rule of thumb – and you have to learn these participles by heart.

(But taking a look at the examples above, we guess that you already assumed that this is just like in English.)

If you like to see this verb form in action, visit the following chapters:

- [Perfect tense](#)
- [Pluperfect](#)

Perfect (Perfekt)

When reading this chapter, please keep in mind: Colloquial German loves the perfect tense (Perfekt).

German native speakers will always tend towards using the perfect when they tell you what happened yesterday at the office.

To use the German perfect yourself, please ...

... combine the present tense of the auxiliaries 'sein' (to be) or 'werden' (to become) with the [past participle](#) of the main verb of your sentence.

Building the German perfect tense: 'sein' or 'haben' (present tense) + past participle				
Person	auxiliary verb	past participle	auxiliary verb	past participle
ich	habe	gespielt	bin	gegangen
du	hast	gespielt	bist	gegangen
er/sie/es	hat	gespielt	ist	gegangen
wir	haben	gespielt	sind	gegangen
ihr	habt	gespielt	seid	gegangen
sie	haben	gespielt	sind	gegangen

When do you use the auxiliary "to be" and "to have"?

For most verbs you need the auxiliary verb "to have".

You use "to be" especially for verbs that indicate location or a state.

Pluperfect (Plusquamperfekt, Vorvergangenheit)

Would you like to describe a process in the past that happened before another event in the past?

Then you need the German Plusquamperfekt (pluperfect).

You build this tense with the form of the auxiliary verbs "to have" or "to be" in the preterit and the past participle of the verb.

Building the German pluperfect: 'sein' or 'haben' (simple past) + past participle				
person	Aux. verb	past participle	Aux. verb	past participle
ich	hatte	gespielt	war	gegangen
du	hattest	gespielt	warst	gegangen
er/sie/es	hatte	gespielt	war	gegangen
wir	hatten	gespielt	waren	gegangen
ihr	hattet	gespielt	wart	gegangen
sie	hatten	gespielt	waren	gegangen

Future (Futur I / Zukunft)

German knows two future tenses.

We take a closer look at the ‚Futur I‘ here and later on explain rules and use for the ‚Futur II‘.

When you want to refer to something that might or will happen in the future, you use the ‚Futur I‘.

Building this tense is pretty simple:

Take the inflected form of the auxiliary verb ‘werden’ (to become) and add the infinitive of the verb to it.

Take a look at this example:

Ich **werde** die Zeitung **lesen**.

I will read the paper.

refers to the future.

Take a look at this example:

In zehn Jahren bin ich reich.

Literally translated: In ten years I am rich.

In ten years, I will be rich.

Building the German future (Futur I): werden (present tense) + infinitive		
person	auxiliary verb	infinitive
ich	werde	gehen
du	wirst	
er/sie/es	wird	
wir	werden	
ihr	werdet	
sie	werden	

Please note, that colloquial German prefers using the present tense for describing and predicting acts in the future.

This happens usually when in a certain context, it is clear that the speaker

Future perfect (Futur II, vollendete Zukunft)

The future perfect (vollendete Zukunft, Futur II) describes an action that will be completed in the future.

Building this tense, you use the following components:

- (1) auxiliary verb “werden” in the present tense, inflected according to person
- (2) past participle of the main verb
- (3) “sein” or “haben” (infinitive form of the auxiliary verbs “to be” or “to have”)

Let’s take a look at an example:

Nächstes Jahr zu dieser Zeit **wird** Peter die Universität **abgeschlossen haben**.

Peter will have finished university by this time next year.

Future perfect (Futur II): werden (present tense) + past participle + auxiliary verb (infinitive)			
person	aux. verb	past participle	infinitive
ich	werde	gegangen	sein
du	wirst		
er/sie/es	wird		
wir	werden		
ihr	werdet		
sie	werden		

The German imperative – giving orders and naming wishes (Imperativ / Befehlsform)

To communicate your orders, instructions and wishes in German, you use the imperative form of a verb.

If you want to look up this phenomenon in a German grammar, please look for ‘Imperativ’ or ‘Befehlsform’.

1. In the singular you address one person: the ending of the verb is deleted and the personal pronoun is omitted.

Example:

Du gehst in das Haus. → **Geh** in das Haus!

You (sg) enter the house. → Enter the house.

2. In the plural, you address several persons: the personal pronoun is (again) omitted and the ending of the verb just stays the same.

Example:

Ihr geht in das Haus. → **Geht** in das Haus!

You (pl) enter the house. → Enter the house!

German subjunctive (Konjunktiv, Möglichkeitsform)

Konjunktiv I:

You use the subjunctive I to express probabilities and within fixed expressions.

Konjunktiv I: stem of the verb + subjunctive ending		
person	ending	Example: verb „laufen“ (to run) in subjunctive
ich	-e	laufe
du	-est	laufest
er/sie/es	-e	laufe
wir	-en	laufen
ihr	-et	laufet
sie	-en	laufen

Konjunktiv II:

The second form of the subjunctive is used more often.

You will find this verbal form when ...

- ... you express your hopes or wishes
- ... you negotiate unrealistic terms
- ... you politely ask for something
- ... you want to give advice
- ... you make a comparison, using the term „als ob“

In the present tense, you must distinguish between regular and irregular verbs if you want to form the subjunctive correctly:

Konjunktiv II of regular verbs: form of „würde“ (would)+ verb in infinitive		
person	würde (subjunctive form of „werde“, eng. 'would')	verb
ich	würde	laufen
du	würdest	laufen
er/sie/es	würde	laufen
wir	würden	laufen
ihr	würdet	laufen
sie	würden	laufen
Konjunktiv II of irregular verbs: verbform in preterit + ending for subjunctive		
person	ending	Example: verb „sollen“ (shall) in Konjunktiv II
ich	-e	sollte
du	-(e)st	solltest
er/sie/es	-e	sollte
wir	-en	sollten
ihr	-(e)t	solltet
sie	-en	sollten

Would you like to use the subjunctive II in the past?

Then use the form of "have" or "be" in subjunctive II together with the past participle of the verb.

Example:

ich hätte gelacht

ich wäre gegangen

Ich, du, er sie, es ... – German personal pronouns

Pronouns in German are declined.

This means that you have to adapt them to the different grammatical categories: Case, number and gender.

German personal pronouns are used to avoid repetitions. You can also use these pronouns to refer to yourself or to others.

German personal pronouns				
	NOM	GEN	DAT	ACC
1.pers. sg.	ich	meiner	mir	mich
2.pers. sg.	du	deiner	dir	dich
3.pers. sg.	er/sie/es	seiner/ihrer/seiner	ihm/ihr/ihm	ihn/sie/es
1.pers. pl.	wir	unser	uns	uns
2.pers. pl.	ihr	euer	euch	euch
3. pers. pl.	sie	ihrer	ihnen	sie

Mein, dein, sein ... – German possessive pronouns

German possessive pronouns have the same function as in English: they mark the owner of something and describe what belongs to whom. These pronouns must also be declined:

German possessive pronouns					
		NOM	GEN	DAT	ACC
1st person sg.	masculine	mein	meines	meinem	meinen
	feminine	meine	meiner	meiner	meine
	neuter	mein	meines	meinem	mein
	plural	meine	meiner	meinen	meine
2nd person sg.	masculine	dein	deines	deinem	deinen
3rd person sg.	er/es*	sein	seines	seinem	seinen
	sie*	ihr	ihres	ihrem	ihren
1st person pl.	masculine	unser	unseres	unserem	unseren
2nd person pl.	masculine	euer	eures	eurem	euren
3rd person pl.	männlich	ihr	ihres	ihrem	ihren
	masculine				

*personal pronouns

In this table you will find all declination forms for the 1st person. The other persons are declined in the same way.

Example:

2nd person singular feminine nominative: deine

Reflexive pronouns

The reflexive pronoun refers back to the subject of the sentence.

Example:

Der Koch wäscht **sich** die Hände.

The chef washes his hands.

The forms of the reflexive pronoun are almost identical to the forms of the [personal pronouns](#).

Only in the 3rd person singular and the 3rd person plural you use the pronoun 'sich' (en. yourself).

The pronoun 'sich' is not flexed.

It does not distinguish gender or number.

It is used only in the accusative and in the dative.

Interrogative pronouns (Interrogativpronomen)

Interrogative pronouns introduce a question.

They replace the noun asked for.

The pronouns "who" and "what" are declined.

The same goes for "which", the latter distinguishing between the grammatical gender.

Die Deklination der deutschen Interrogativpronomen						
	wer (who)	was (what)	welcher (which)			
			masculine	feminine	neuter	plural
NOM	wer	was	welcher	welche	welches	welche
GEN	wessen	was	welches	welches	welcher	welcher
DAT	wem	was	welchem	welchem	welcher	welchen
ACC	wen	wessen	welchen	welches	welche	welche

Relative pronouns (Relativpronomen)

You can use relative pronouns to refer to something that has already been said. In this way, repetitions can be avoided.

The declension of German relative pronouns				
	masculine	feminine	neuter	plural
NOM	der	die	das	die
GEN	dessen	deren	dessen	deren
DAT	dem	der	dem	denen
ACC	den	die	das	die

Negating German phrases

If you want to negate a German sentence, you need the word "**nicht**". You put this at the end of the sentence.

Please note:

If the verb of the sentence consists of two verb parts, "not" is in the penultimate position, i.e. before the second verb part:

Example:

Bei Vollmond schlafe ich **nicht**.

I don't sleep when there is a full moon.

Bei Vollmond kann ich **nicht** einschlafen.

I can't fall asleep when there is a full moon.

Negating a German noun:

Negating a noun, using the definite article

If the noun you want to negate is preceded by the definite article, you need the help of the word 'nicht' (not).

You put this word in front of the definite article:

Example:

Ist das der Richter, der dich verurteilt hat? – Nein, das ist **nicht** der Richter.

Is that the judge who convicted you? - No, that is **not** the judge.

Negating a noun, using the indefinite article

For the negation of nouns with indefinite articles, you need the German '**negation article**'. These are declined as follows:

Overview: Negation articles in German				
	masculine	feminine	neuter	plural
NOM	kein	keine	kein	keine

GEN	keines	keiner	keines	keiner
DAT	keinem	keiner	keinem	keinen
ACC	keinen	keiner	kein	keine

Please be careful when using a double negation:

If you deny a statement twice in German as in English, it becomes an affirmation!

Example:

Sie hat **kein** Interesse daran, an der Verlosung **nicht** teilzunehmen. → Sie hat Interesse daran, an der Verlosung teilzunehmen.

She has no interest in not taking part in the raffle. → She is interested in taking part in the raffle.

German numbers from 0 to 10	
null	zero
eins	one
zwei	two
drei	three
vier	four
fünf	five
sechs	six
sieben	seven
acht	eight
neun	nine
zehn	ten

German numbers from 11 to 20	
elf	eleven
zwölf	twelve
dreizehn	thirteen
vierzehn	fourteen
fünfzehn	fifteen
sechzehn	sixteen
siebzehn	seventeen
achtzehn	eighteen
neunzehn	nineteen
zwanzig	twenty

German numbers from 21 to 100	
einundzwanzig	twenty-one
zweiundzwanzig	twenty two
dreiundzwanzig	twenty three
dreißig	thirty
vierzig	fourty
fünfzig	fifty
sechzig	sixty
siebzig	seventy
achtzig	eighty
neunzig	ninety
einhundert	one hundred