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Alphabetized Listing

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Tense Usage

The **progressive form** (I am going, I was going) is rendered in German by the simple forms: **ich gehe**, **ich ging**, etc.

The **present** often denotes future time:

Er **kommt** morgen. = Er **wird** morgen **kommen**.

He **is coming** tomorrow. = He **will come** tomorrow.

It corresponds to English present perfect when referring to a past event continuing in present time:

Ich **bin** schon lange hier.

I **have been** here a long time.

Wir **sind** seit gestern, einer Woche, einem Monat in dieser Stadt.

We **have been** in this city since yesterday, for a week, a month.

The simple **past** is used in narration:

Um acht Uhr **stand** ich **auf**; um neun Uhr **ging** ich aus; dann **nahm** ich mein Frühstück und **traf** meinen Freund, der auf mich **wartete**.

At eight o'clock I **got up**; at nine o'clock I **went** out; then I **had** (my) breakfast and **met** my friend (male) who **was waiting** for me.

The past corresponds to English past perfect in speaking of a condition or event which was interrupted by another condition or event in the past:

Ich **wartete** seit einer Stunde, als er endlich **kam**.

I **had been waiting** for an hour, when he finally **came**.

The **present perfect** is used:

- to refer to past actions closely connected with the present:

Ist er nicht **gekommen**?

Hasn't he **come**?

- to speak of single events in the past:

Shakespeare **ist** im Jahre 1616 **gestorben**.

Shakespeare **died** in 1616.

- in colloquial language in place of the past, consequently in conversation in the form of questions and answers:

Hat er mich **gerufen**?

Has he **called** me?

Nein, niemand **hat** **gerufen**.

No, no one **has** **called**.

The **future** is sometimes used to express probability in present time, and the **future perfect** to denote probability in past time:

Er **wird** (wohl) **kommen**.

He probably **will come**.

Er **wird** (wohl) **gekommen sein**.

He probably **came**.

Present Tense

The present tense is used:

- To express present conditions or actions. For example:

Ich **fühle** mich schlecht.

I **feel** ill.

Es **schneit**.

It **is snowing**.

- To express general statements or universal truths. Examples:

Sabine **hört gern** Rockmusik.

Sabine **likes to listen to** rock music.

Zeit **ist** Geld.

Time **is** money.

- As a common way to express the future. For example:

Ich **bin** gleich zurück.

I'll **be** right back.

Du **bekommst** einen Brief.

You'll **be getting** a letter.

- With **schon** (bereits, erst, lange) to denote the continuation of an action or condition that began in the past. For example:

Es **regnet** schon drei Tage.

It **has been raining** for three days (and still is).

Formation:

The present tense of most German verbs is formed by adding the following endings to the verb stem:

ich	-e	wir	-en
du	-st	ihr	-t
er, sie	-t	sie,	-en
es		Sie	

The conjugations of the following verbs are irregular and are included in our Verb Conjugator.

sein	to be
haben	to have
werden	to become, to get, will

Imperfect

The imperfect tense (narrative past) in German is the usual tense for stories, novels, and news reports. It is not interchangeable with the Present Perfect (conversational past). The imperfect is used:

- To narrate or report a chain of past events.

Als sie in Deutschland **war**, vor zwei Jahren, **lernte** sie viel, **reiste** sie überall in Europa, und **bekam** sie eine größere Weltanschauung.

When she **was** in Germany two years ago, she **studied** a lot, she **travelled** all over Europe, and she **gained** a greater world view.

- To express two actions that occurred at the same time in the past, or a condition or event that was interrupted by another condition or event in the past. The dependent clauses are often introduced by **während** (while, during) or **als** (when).

Sie **las** einen Roman, während ich **studierte**.

She **was reading** a novel while I **was studying**.

Ich **wartete** seit einer Stunde, als er endlich **kam**.

I **had been waiting** for an hour when he finally **came**.

- To express habitual past action. Key words such as **gewöhnlich** (usually) and **immer** (always) occur in these sentences. In English the action is often expressed by **used to + verb**.

Um sieben Uhr **machte** sie gewöhnlich **einen Spaziergang**.

At seven o'clock she usually **went for a walk**.

Ich **sah** sie immer.

I always **used to see** her.

- Most often for **sein** (to be), **haben** (to have), and the modal auxiliaries (see also Verbs--Modal Auxiliaries) when referring to the past.

Das **war** klasse!

That **was** great!

Ich **konnte** es kaum glauben.

I **could** hardly believe it.

Formation:

Weak verbs form the imperfect tense by adding the following endings to the verb stem:

ich	-te	wir	-ten
du	-test	ihr	-tet
er, sie, es	-te	sie, Sie	-ten

Verb stems that end in **-d**, **-t**, **-dn**, **-tm**, **-chn**, **-fn** or **-gn** insert an **e** between the stem and the personal imperfect endings to facilitate pronunciation.

The verbs **brennen** (to burn), **kennen** [to know (by acquaintance)], **nennen** (to call, to name), **rennen** (to run), **senden** (to send), **wenden** (to turn), **bringen** (to bring, to take), **denken** (to think), and **wissen** [to know (a fact)] are irregular in the imperfect. Conjugations for these verbs are included in German Assistant's Verb Conjugator.

Strong verbs have a vowel change in the imperfect stem. The endings also differ from weak verbs in that the first and third person singular never receive an ending. The endings are:

ich	-	wir	-en
du	-st	ihr	-t
er, sie, es	-	sie, Sie	-en

Verb stems that end in **-d**, **-t**, **-ss/ß** and **-chs** usually insert an **e** between the stem and the personal

imperfect endings of the 2nd person singular and plural.

The auxiliary verbs sein, haben and werden are irregular in the imperfect and must be memorized. Reference the Verb Conjugator for assistance.

See also:

Verbs--Weak

Verbs--Strong

Present Perfect

The present perfect Tense is the standard tense used in conversations about the past (except with the verbs **sein** and **haben**, and the modal verbs discussed in Imperfect). This tense should not be confused with the imperfect which is used to narrate a **series** of past events.

The present perfect tense is used:

- In colloquial language in place of the imperfect, thus in conversation in the form of questions and answers:

Hat er mich **gerufen**?

Has he **called** me?

Nein, niemand **hat** **gerufen**.

No, no one **has** **called**.

- To refer to past actions closely connected with the present:

Er **ist** **nicht gekommen**.

He **didn't** come.

- To speak of single events in the past:

Shakespeare **ist** im Jahre 1616 **gestorben**.

Shakespeare **died** in the year 1616.

Formation:

The present perfect Tense is generally formed from the Present Tense of the auxiliary verb **haben** + the past participle of the main verb. The auxiliary verb **sein** is used when the main verb is intransitive (does not take a direct object) and indicates a change of location or condition. The past participle should come at the end of the clause.

See also:

Verbs--Auxiliary

Past Perfect

The **Past Perfect Tense** (or pluperfect) describes an action or condition which took place before another action or event in the past. It is formed from the Imperfect of **haben** or **sein** + **past participle of the main verb**.

Sie lief zum Haus ihrer Großmutter, nachdem sie den Kuchen **gebacken hatte**.

She ran to her grandmother's house, after she **had baked** the cake.

Nachdem ich **gegessen hatte**, machte ich einen Spaziergang.

After I **had eaten**, I took a walk.

Future

The **Future Tense** is used:

- To express an action that will take place in the future.

Ich **werde** ihn **treffen**.

I **will meet** him.

Wir **werden** nach San Diego **fahren**.

We **will drive** to San Diego.

- To express probability in the present time, or future of probability. This is usually expressed with the adverbs **wohl** (**probably**), **sicher** (**certainly**), **wahrscheinlich** (**probably**) and **vielleicht** (**perhaps**). In these cases, the German future tense corresponds to the English present tense.

Mary **wird** wohl schon zu Hause **sein**.

Mary **is** probably at home now.

Formation:

The Future Tense is formed from the Present Tense of **werden** (to become) + infinitive of the main verb. The infinitive comes at the end of the clause, unless it occurs in a dependent clause. In dependent clauses, the infinitive precedes werden, which will come at the end.

See also:

Word Order)

Future Perfect

The Future Perfect describes an event which will be completed in the future before a second (future) event takes place. It is formed from the Present Tense of **werden** + the past participle of the main verb + the infinitive of **haben** or **sein**.

The future perfect is used to describe an event which will be completed at some point in the future.

Er **wird** bis übermorgen das Buch **gelesen haben**.

He **will have read** the book by the day after tomorrow.

With **schon**, **wohl**, **doch**, or **wahrscheinlich**, the future perfect can denote probability in past time.

Er **wird** wohl **gekommen sein**.

He probably **came**.

For word order with the future perfect, see Word Order

Verbs: Subjunctive

Subjunctive I

Subjunctive II

Perfect Subjunctive

Past Perfect Subjunctive

Future Subjunctive

Future Perfect Subjunctive

Subjunctive I

Subjunctive I (present subjunctive) is most common in formal contexts, as in the media or press. The subjunctive II form is most commonly used in speech. The subjunctive is almost never used to state a fact. It expresses ideas, desire, unreality, possibility, concession, purpose, personal impression, etc., and is principally used in indirect statements.

The subjunctive I is used for:

- Indirect discourse when the original direct speech is in the present. For example:

Er hat gesagt, er **finde** es schwierig.

He said he **finds** (**found**) it difficult.

Compare with the direct discourse:

Ich **finde** es schwierig.

I **find** it difficult.

- The **subjunctive endings** are identical with the past endings of weak verbs:

ich	-e	wir	-en
du	-est	ihr	-et
er, sie, es	-e	sie, Sie	-en

Formation:

The **present subjunctive**, otherwise known as **Subjunctive I**, is formed by adding the subjunctive endings to the **infinitive stem**:

haben

ich	habe	wir	haben
du	habest	ihr	habet
er, sie, es	habe	sie, Sie	haben

Exception: **sein** has no endings in the first and third persons of the singular:

ich	sei	wir	seien
du	seiest	ihr	seid
er, sie, es	sei	sie, Sie	seien

Usage:

The present subjunctive is primarily used in indirect discourse, when the original direct speech is in the present:

Direct Discourse:

Ich **finde** es schwierig.

I **find** it difficult.

Indirect Discourse:

Er hat gesagt, er **finde** es schwierig.

He said he **finds** (**found**) it difficult.

As in English, the present subjunctive can be used as a kind of third person imperative:

Lang **lebe** der König!

Long **live** the King!

The present subjunctive can also replace **lassen** (to let):

Laß uns **gehen**!

Let's go!

OR **Gehen** wir!

Usage of Subjunctive I:

Use of the **Subjunctive I** is most common in formal contexts, as in the media or press. In speech, the **Subjunctive II** form is most commonly used.

See also:

Indirect Discourse

Subjunctive II

Contrary Conditions

Subjunctive II

The imperfect subjunctive, otherwise known as subjunctive II, is formed by:

- **Past stem + umlaut (where possible) + subjunctive endings.** This applies to:

Auxiliaries:	wäre, hätte, würde
Strong verbs:	bliebe, tränke
Two irregular weak verbs:	brächte, dächte
wissen:	wüßte

- **Infinitive stem + (e)t + subjunctive endings.** This applies to all other verbs.

Modals:	wollte, sollte, könnte, müßte, dürfte, möchte
Weak verbs:	lebte, arbeitete
Six irregular weak verbs:	brennte, konnte, nennte, rennte, sendete, wendete

- The imperfect subjunctive is used for:
A wish, request, or conditional statement:

Wenn er nur hier **wäre**!
If he **were** only here! (but he is not)

Wenn er **käme**, **ginge** ich nach Hause.
If he **came**, I **would go** home.

Indirect discourse when the original statement is in the present:

Der Minister erklärte, daß dies unmöglich **wäre**.
The minister explained that this **would be** impossible.

Usage of Subjunctive II:

Although the Subjunctive I form is the most appropriate form to use in writing, especially in the media or press, Subjunctive II is the most common form used in speech colloquially, even when the rules would suggest otherwise.

Perfect Subjunctive

The perfect subjunctive is used in **indirect discourse** when the tense of the direct speech was in the imperfect, perfect, or past perfect indicative.

Direct Discourse:

Ich **fand** es schwierig.

I **found** it difficult.

Ich **habe** es schwierig **gefunden**.

I **have found** it difficult.

Indirect Discourse:

Er hat gesagt, er **habe** es schwierig **gefunden**.

He said he **had found** it difficult.

Ich **hätte** es schwierig **gefunden**.

I **would have found** it difficult.

Formation:

The perfect subjunctive is formed from the Subjunctive I (present subjunctive) of **haben** or **sein** + past participle of the main verb.

See also:

Indirect Discourse

Past Perfect Subjunctive

The past perfect subjunctive (or pluperfect subjunctive) is used:

- To indicate contrary-to-fact wishes, contrary-to-fact conditional clauses, and **als ob** clauses referring to past time.

Wenn er nur **mitgeholfen hätte!**
If only he **had helped**.

Wenn er mich **gefragt hätte**, **hätte** ich ihm das Geld **geliehen**.
If he **had asked** me, I **would have lent** him the money.

Er tut, als ob er dort **gewesen wäre**.
He acts, as if he **had been** there.

- In indirect discourse when the original sentence was in the imperfect, perfect, or past perfect indicative.

Direct Discourse:

Ich **fand** es schwierig.
I **found** it difficult.
Ich **habe** es schwierig **gefunden**.
I **have found** it difficult.

Indirect Discourse:

Er hat gesagt, er **hätte** es schwierig **gefunden**.
He said he **had found** it difficult.
Ich **hätte** es **schwierig** gefunden.
I **would have found** it difficult.

Formation:

The past perfect subjunctive is formed from the Subjunctive II (imperfect subjunctive) of **haben** or **sein** + past participle of the main verb.

See also:

Indirect Discourse

Contrary Conditions

Future Subjunctive

The future subjunctive is used in indirect discourse when the original statement was in the Future Indicative. It is formed from the Subjunctive I (**present subjunctive**) of **werden** + **the infinitive of the main verb**. The infinitive comes at the end of the clause, unless it occurs in a dependent clause. In dependent clauses, the infinitive precedes **werden**, which will come at the end.

Direct Discourse:

Ich **werde** es schwierig **finden**.

I **will find** it difficult.

Indirect Discourse:

Er sagte, er **werde** es schwierig **finden**.

He said he **would find** it difficult.

See also:

Indirect Discourse

Word Order

Future Perfect Subjunctive

The future perfect subjunctive is used in Indirect Discourse when the original statement was in the Future Perfect. It is composed of the Subjunctive I (present subjunctive) of **werden** plus the **Perfect Infinitive** (the infinitive of **haben** or **sein** plus the past participle).

Direct Discourse:

Ich **werde** jung gewesen **sein**.

I **will have been** young.

Indirect Discourse:

Er sagte, daß er jung **gewesen sein werde**.

He said that he **would have been** young.

See also:

Indirect Discourse

Conditional

Present Conditional

Past Conditional

Present Conditional

The present conditional is used to express conditions contrary to fact in the present time. It refers to what would happen or what would be done as a result of some other hypothetical action. It is formed from the Subjunctive II (past subjunctive) of **werden** + the **infinitive of the main verb**. The infinitive comes at the end of the clause unless it occurs in a dependent clause. In dependent clauses, the infinitive precedes **werden**.

Wenn das passiert, **würde** ich mich sehr **freuen**.

If that happens, I **would be** very **pleased**.

See also:

Subjunctive II

Past Conditional

Contrary Conditions

Word Order

Past Conditional

The past conditional expresses the result of a condition contrary to fact in the past time. It is formed from the Subjunctive II (past subjunctive) of **werden** + the **Perfect Infinitive** (**haben** or **sein** + the past participle of the main verb).

Wenn ich die Antwort gewußt hätte, dann **würde** ich sie **geäußert haben**.

If I had known the answer, I **would have said** it.

See also:

Past Perfect Subjunctive

Present Conditional

Contrary Conditions

Verbs: General

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Subjunctive--Principal Clauses

Verb--General Rules

The **infinitive** ends in **-en**, sometimes only in **-n**:

singen	sing
schreiben	write
segeln	sail
wandern	wander, travel
tun	do

The **infinitive** is very frequently used as a neuter noun:

das Singen	singing
das Wandern	hiking

To convert an infinitive to a noun, simply capitalize the infinitive (all German nouns are capitalized) and give it the neuter gender (das).

The **present participle** is formed by adding **-d** to the infinitive: **singend**, **schreibend**. It may be used as an adjective and is declined as such.

Exception: **sein**, **seiend**

The **compound tenses** are formed as follows:

Present	habe (bin)	plus present
Perfect		participle
Past Perfect	ich hatte (war)	plus past
		participle
Future	ich werde	plus infinitive
Future Perfect	ich werde	plus past
		infinitive
Passive Voice	ich werde	plus past
		participle

Table of Endings: this table is valid for all verbs, except the present indicative of **sein**.

Pres. Ind of allverbs (except modals and wissen)		Past of weak verbs and Pres. Subj 1 and 2		Past of strong verbs and Pres. Ind of modals and wissen		Imperative	
-e	-en	-e	-en	----	-en	----	----
-(e)st	-(e)t	-est	-et	-(e)st	-(e)t	-(e)	-(e)t
-(e)t	-en	-e	-en	----	-en	----	-en + Sie

The **present indicative** and the **imperative** use the fuller endings **-est** and **-et** to prevent difficulties in pronunciation:

- after **d** and **t**: **du redest**, **er redet**, **ihr redet**, **redet!**
- after **m** and **n** preceded by some other consonant (not **l**, **m**, **n**, **r**, **h**): **atmen** (breathe): **du atmest**, **er atmet**, **ihr atmet**, **atmet!** **öffnen** (open): **du öffnest**, **er öffnet**, **ihr öffnet**, **öffnet!**

Verbs, the stem of which end in a **sibilant** (**s**, **ß**, **sch**, **z**), usually contract the **s** sounds of the second person singular of the present indicative by omitting **es**: **du reisest** = **du reist**; **du sitztest** = **du sitzt**.

The ending **-e** in the imperative of the second person singular is often omitted, especially in the strong verbs: **Lebe wohl** (farewell), **gehe** (go), **komme** (come).

Passive Voice

The passive voice is formed from **werden** plus the past participle of the main verb:

Ich **werde** gefragt.
I **am** asked.

The past participle of **werden** used in forming the passive voice is **worden**:

Ich **bin** gefragt **worden**.
I **have been** asked.

Sein plus the past participle denotes a state or condition; **werden** plus the past participle denotes a progressive action in the passive voice:

Das Haus **ist** gebaut.
The house **is built** (completed).

Das Haus **wird** gebaut.
The house **is (being) built**.

Therefore, do not confuse a form of **sein** with the past participle as a passive sentence. (This combination is sometimes called the "false passive".)

The active and the passive tenses correspond as follows:

	Active	Passive
Pres.	ich frage	ich werde gefragt
Past	ich fragte	ich wurde gefragt
Pres.Pf.	ich habe gefragt	ich bin gefragt worden
Past Pf.	ich hatte gefragt	ich war gefragt worden
Fut.	ich werde fragen	ich werde gefragt werden
Fut. Pf.	ich werde gefragt haben	ich werde gefragt worden sein

In changing a sentence from the active to the passive voice (or the reverse) the following points must be observed:

- The correspondence of tenses.
- The direct object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence:

Ich fragte **ihn**.
I asked **him**.

Er wurde von mir gefragt.
He was asked by me.

- The subject of the active sentence appears in the dative preceded by **von**:

Der Herr fragte ihn.
The gentleman asked him.

Er wurde **von dem Herrn** gefragt.
He was asked **by the gentleman**.

- The dative object remains in the dative:

Die Frau half **dem Teufel**.
The woman helped **the devil**.

Dem Teufel wurde von der Frau geholfen.
The devil was helped by the woman.

- The indefinite pronoun man is not expressed in the passive voice:

Man hat ihn gefragt.
(Some)One has asked him.

Er ist gefragt worden.
He has been asked.

Man wird immer plündern.
People will always loot.

Es wird immer geplündert werden.
There will always be looting.

- (or, without grammatical subject:

Immer wird geplündert werden.)

The passive voice is not as frequently used in German as it is in English; frequent substitutes are:

- **man** (one, they, people) with the active voice:

man sagt
it is said

man glaubt
it is believed

- **sich lassen** plus infinitive expresses possibility:

Das **läßt sich** leicht **machen**.
That **can be** easily **done** (**arranged**).

- **sein** plus infinitive with **zu** expresses possibility or necessity:

Es **ist** viel **zu tun**.
Much **has to be done**.

Das **ist** leicht **zu verstehen**.
That **can be** easily **understood**.

Verbs--Auxiliary

There are three verbs which have independent meanings, and besides, are used as auxiliary verbs to form compound tenses:

sein: **be, exist**

Gott ist.

God exists.

Ich bin gewesen.

I have been.

haben: **have, own, possess**

Er hat ein Haus.

He has (owns) a house.

Ich habe gehabt.

I have had.

werden: **become, grow, get; shall, will**

Es wird hell.

It is getting light.

Ich werde sein.

I shall be.

Most verbs use **haben** to form the compound tenses of the past. **Sein** is used with **intransitive verbs** (verbs not requiring an accusative object) denoting **change of position** or **condition**.

change of position:

aufstehen get up, rise

gehen go, walk

begegnen (dative) meet

kommen come, arrive

fallen fall

laufen run

folgen (dative) follow

change of condition:

aufwachen awake

werden become, grow

einschlafen fall asleep

zufrieren freeze over or up

sterben die

Sein is also used with **sein be, exist; bleiben stay, remain; gelingen succeed; geschehen happen.**

bleiben:

Er **ist** zu Hause **geblieben**.

He (**has**) **remained** at home.

gelingen:

Er **ist** mir nicht **gelingen**.

I **did** not **succeed**.

geschehen:

Was **ist** **geschehen**?

What **has** **happened**?

Werden is used to form the Future, the Future Perfect and the Passive Voice:

Ich **werde** **arbeiten**.

I **shall** **work**.

Ich **werde** **gearbeitet** **haben**.

I **shall** **have** **worked**.

Es **wird** nicht **gearbeitet**.

No work is being done.

Verbs--Weak

Weak verbs form their **past** by adding to the infinitive stem **-t** or **-et** plus the endings:

ich	-e	wir	-en
du	-est	ihr	-et
er, sie es	-e	sie, Sie	-en

ich sag-t-e, du sag-t-est, etc.; ich öffn-et-e, etc. The **-et** is added to avoid difficulties in pronunciation.

Weak verbs form their **past participle** by adding **ge-** before the stem and **-t** or **-et** after it: **ge-sag-t**; **ge-öffn-et**.

Verbs with inseparable prefixes and verbs ending in **-ieren** do not prefix **ge-** to form their past participle:

erzählen,	narrate,
erzählt	narrated
versuchen,	try, tried
versucht	
studieren,	study, studied
studiert	

In verbs with separable prefixes the participle **ge-** is inserted between the two component parts:

aufhören,	cease, ceased
aufgehört	

Past participles are used as adjectives and inflected as such:

der geliebte Hund.
the beloved dog

Examples of **principal parts**:

Inf.	Past	Past Part.	
lernen	lernte	gelernt	learn
studieren	studierte	studiert	study
öffnen	öffnete	geöffnet	open
aufhören	hörte auf	aufgehört	stop, cease
erzählen	erzählte	erzählt	narrate

Irregular Weak Verbs

Eight weak verbs change the stem vowel to form the past and past participle:

Inf.	Past	Past Part.	Pres. Subj. 2	
brennen	brannte	gebrannt	brennte	burn
kennen	kannte	gekannt	kennte	know
nennen	nannte	genannt	nennte	name
rennen	rannte	gerannt	rennte	run
senden	sandte	gesandt	sendete	send
wenden	wandte	gewandt	wendete	turn
bringen	brachte	gebracht	brächte	bring
denken	dachte	gedacht	dächte	think

Wissen (**know**, **have knowledge of**) is irregular in the singular of the present indicative:

ich weiß	wir wissen
du weißt	ihr wißt
er weiß	sie wissen

The principal parts of **wissen** are: **wissen**, **wußte**, **gewußt**. **Wissen** means **have knowledge of**:

Er **weiß** alles.

He **knows** everything.

Ich **weiß**, daß er morgen kommt.

I **know** that he is coming tomorrow.

Kennen means **know, be acquainted with**:

Ich **kenne** den Mann.

I **know** (**am acquainted with**) that man.

Können means **be able to, master**:

Sie **kann** gut Deutsch.

She **knows** German well.

OR She **is able to** speak German well.

Verbs--Strong

Strong verbs change their stem vowel to form the past and the past participle:

singen, sang, gesungen	sing, sang, sung.
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They have either two or three different stem vowels in their principal parts:

geben, gab, gegeben	give, gave, given
finden, fand, gefunden	find, found, found

Strong verbs form their **past** like **ich war**, by adding to the past stem the endings:

	to come	to find
----	ich kam	ich fand
-(e)st	du kamst	du fand(e)st
----	er kam	er fand
-en	wir kamen	wir fanden
-(e)t	ihr kamt	ihr fandet
-en	sie kamen	sie fanden

They form their **past participle** by adding **ge-** before and **-en** after the stem of the past participle: **ge-schrieb-en**.

Verbs with inseparable prefixes do not prefix **ge-**:

entstehen, entstanden.	develop, developed
---------------------------	-----------------------

In verbs with separable prefixes **ge** is inserted between the component parts:

hineinspringen	jump in
hineingesprungen	jumped in

Verbs of **classes 4 and 5** change the stem vowel **e** to **i** or **ie** in the second and third persons singular of the present indicative and in the second person singular of the imperative. They also omit the ending **-e** in the second person singular of the imperative (exception: **werde**).

speak	sprechen	du sprichst	er spricht	sprich!
see	sehen	du siehst	er sieht	sieh!

Verbs of **classes 6 and 7** change the stem vowel **a** to **ä** (**au** to **äu**) in the second and third persons singular of the present indicative:

fall	fallen	du fällst	er fällt
run	laufen	du läufst	er läuft
push	stoßen	du stößt	er stößt.

Verbs falling under these two rules do not use connective **e** in the singular of the present indicative:

scold	schelten	du schiltst	er schilt
step	treten	du trittst	er tritt
load	laden	du lädst	er lädt
guess	raten	du rätst	er rät.

Strong verbs roughly follow one of seven classes, called "ablaut classes":

class	infinitive	Past	Past Part.	Example
1	ei	ie(i)	ie(i)	bleiben (reiten)
2	ie	o	o	bieten

3a	i followed by n plus consonant	a	u	binden
3b	i followed by nn, mm	a	o	beginnen
4	e in syllables containing l, m, r	a	o	helfen
5	e followed by consonants except: l, m, n, r	a	e	geben
6	a	u	a	fahren
7	a or o, u, au, ei	ie(i)	a, o, etc.	fallen
Irregular:	gehen stehen tun	ging stand tat	gegangen gestanden getan	

Verbs--Modal Auxiliaries

There are six modal auxiliaries:

Infin.	Past	Past Participle	Present Subj.2	Meaning
können	konnte	gekonnt or können	könnte	be able to
wollen	wollte	gewollt or wollen	wollte	want to
sollen	sollte	gesollt or sollen	sollte	be supposed to
müssen	mußte	gemußt or müssen	müßte	have to
dürfen	durfte	gedurft or dürfen	dürfte	be allowed to
mögen	mochte	gemocht or mögen	möchte	care for

Modal auxiliaries are **irregular in the singular of the present indicative**; the endings are identical with the past endings of strong verbs (see also: Verbs--Strong):

	können	wollen	sollen	müssen	dürfen	mögen
ich	kann	will	soll	muß	darf	mag
du	kannst	willst	sollst	mußt	darfst	magst
er	kann	will	soll	muß	darf	mag
wir	können	wollen	sollen	müssen	dürfen	mögen
ihr	könnt	wollt	sollt	müßt	dürft	mögt
sie	können	wollen	sollen	müssen	dürfen	mögen

The **regular past participle** (gekonnt, gewollt, etc.) is used without a dependent infinitive:

Ich **habe** es **gewollt**.
I **have** **wanted** it.

The **infinitive form** of the modal is used instead of the regular past participle when a modal is accompanied by an infinitive of some other verb:

Ich **habe** (**hatte**) es **tun wollen**.
I **have** (**had**) **wanted to do** it.

In the Future Perfect **haben** precedes the two infinitive forms:

Er **wird** es nicht **haben finden können**.
He **will** not **have been able to find** it.
(He **probably has** not **been able to find** it.)

This construction is called the **double infinitive** and always stands last, even in a dependent clause:

Er **hat** es nicht **tun wollen**.
He **has** not **wanted to do** it.
Ich weiß, daß er es nicht **hat tun wollen**.
I know that he **has** not **wanted to do** it.

Other verbs requiring the double infinitive construction are: **hören** (**hear**), **sehen** (**see**), **lassen** (**let**), **helfen** (**help**), **heißen** (**bid**, **order**):

Wir **haben** den Doktor **kommen lassen**.
We (**have**) **let** the doctor **come**.

Modals and the other verbs mentioned do not require **zu** with a dependent infinitive:

Ich **will** es nicht **tun**.

I do not want **to do** it.

Habt ihr sie **singen** hören?

Have you heard her **sing**?

All other dependent infinitives do require **zu**:

Er wünschte **zu sprechen**.

He wished **to speak**.

Es ist schwer, ihn **zu treffen**.

It is difficult **to meet** him.

Er kam, um mit ihm **zu sprechen**.

He came in order **to speak** him.

Er ging in die Stadt, (an)statt **zu arbeiten**.

He went to the city instead **of working**.

Verbs--Reflexive

All reflexive verbs are conjugated with **haben** (see also: Verb--General Rules).

Reflexive verbs of frequent occurrence:

sich aufhalten	stay, be detained	sich beeilen	hasten
sich befinden	be, feel	sich bemühen	endeavor
sich ereignen	happen	sich erholen	recover
sich erinnern	remember	sich erkälten	catch cold
sich freuen	be glad	sich fürchten	fear, be afraid
sich irren	be mistaken	sich langweilen	be annoyed, be bored
sich schämen	be ashamed	sich setzen	sit down
sich verspäten	be late	sich wundern	be surprised, wonder

Verbs--Impersonal

Impersonal verbs are used only in the third person singular with the indefinite subject **es** (which is omitted in some phrases):

- Referring to the **weather**:

es schneit	it is snowing	es blitzt	it is lightning
es friert	it is freezing	es dämmt	it dawns, it grows dusk
es regnet	it is raining	es dunkelt	it is getting dark
es donnert	it is thundering	es taut	it is thawing

- Referring to **condition** or **emotion**:

es ist mir kalt	I feel cold	es freut mich	I am glad
es geht mir gut	I am well	es wundert mich	I am surprised
es ist mir wohl	I feel well	mich dürstet	I am thirsty
es gelingt mir	I succeed	mich hungert	I am hungry
es gefällt mir	I like it, it	mich friert	I am freezing
es tut mir leid	I am sorry		

Es gibt (**there is, there are**) plus the accusative of the noun, is used to denote universal truths:

Es gibt (gab) nur einen Beethoven.

There is (was) only one Beethoven.

Es ist, es sind (**war, waren, etc.**) refers to specific facts:

Es sind viele Studenten an dieser Universität.

There are many students at this university.

Verbs--Dative

Certain verbs require that their accusative objects be in the dative case. The following verbs govern the dative:

antworten	answer	folgen	follow
begegnen	meet	gefallen	please
danken	thank	gehören	belong
dienen	serve	glauben	believe
gehören	obey	helfen	help
geschehen	happen	fehlen	be missing, be ailing

Imperative

The German imperative, like the English imperative, expresses commands or requests. German imperatives are used only in the present tense, and are usually followed by an exclamation point.

The imperative for second person singular (familiar imperative) is formed by removing the **-st** or **-t** ending from the second person singular of the present tense for most verbs:

Du trinkst .	You drink.	Trink!	Drink!
Du ißt .	You eat.	iß!	Eat!

Verbs whose stem vowels are **a** or **au**, and use an umlaut (to **ä** and **äu**) in the second person singular of the present tense, do not change the stem vowel for the familiar imperative:

Du wäschst dich.	You wash.	Wasch dich!	Wash yourself!
Du läufst .	You run.	Lauf!	Run!

If the verb stem ends in **-d**, **-t**, **-m**, **-n**, or **-ig**, an **-e** is added to the familiar imperative:

Du arbeitest .	You work.	Arbeite!	Work!
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If the verb infinitive ends in **-eln**, the **-e** is removed and an **-e** ending is added:

lächeln	to smile	Lächle!	Smile!
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The imperative for second person plural (familiar imperative) is identical to the second person plural of the present tense, but without the pronoun **ihr**:

Ihr kommt nach Hause.
You (pl) **come home.**

Kommt nach Hause!
Come home!

The formal imperative, both singular and plural, is formed from the infinitive followed by the pronoun **Sie**:

Sie kaufen das Auto.
You **buy the car.**

Kaufen Sie das Auto!
Buy the car!

Indirect Discourse

Whenever a speaker reports on another's authority, he/she uses the subjunctive. When the speaker believes what he/she reports, the indicative is used. The former is known as indirect discourse.

Indirect discourse is used after such verbs as:

sagen	say
erzählen	narrate
fragen	ask
denken	think
schreiben	write
glauben	believe
meinen	mean
fürchten	fear
wollen	want
wünschen	wish

Sie sagte, daß er **gekommen sei** (report on another's authority).

Sie sagte, daß er **gekommen ist** (report on one's own authority).

She said that he **had come**.

The **tense** of the subjunctive in indirect discourse is determined by the tense in which the corresponding direct statement was or would have been made.

Er sagte: "Ich **werde kommen**."

He said: "I **will come**."

Er sagte, er **werde kommen**.

He said (that) he **would come**.

Er sagte: "Ich **war** dort."

He said: "I **was** there."

Er sagte, er **sei** dort **gewesen**.

He said he **had been there**.

Er sagte: "Ich **bin** (war) dort **gewesen**."

He said: "I **have been** there."

Er sagte, er **sei** dort **gewesen**.

He said he **had been** there.

Compare the correspondence of indicative and subjunctive tenses. Subjunctive I or Subjunctive II may be used in indirect discourse. Type 1 is preferred, but Type 2 must be used whenever Type 1 is identical with the corresponding indicative form.

Er sagte, er **werde** (**würde**) **kommen**.

He said he **would come**.

Er sagte, sie **würden** (NOT werden) **kommen**.

He said they **would come**.

Daß is frequently used to introduce indirect statements and requires dependent word order: Er sagte, daß er kommen werde. In longer passages daß is usually omitted, in which case the word order remains unchanged.

The **imperative** of **Indirect Discourse** is rendered by **sollen** or **mögen**:

Er sagte "**Kommen** Sie zu uns!"

He said: "**Come** to our place!"

Er sagte, ich **solle** (möge) zu ihnen **kommen**.

He said I **should come** to their place.

In **indirect questions** the same tenses and types are used as in **indirect discourse**; they are introduced by **ob, was, wie, wo, wann**, etc.

Er fragte: "**Ist** er **gekommen**?"

He asked: "**Has** he **come**?"

Er fragte, ob er **gekommen sei**.

He asked if he **had come**.

Er fragte: "Wann **kommen** Sie?"

He asked: "When **are** you **coming**?"

Er fragte, wann ich **käme**.

He asked when I **was coming**.

Contrary Conditions

Conditions contrary to fact: A condition may be real or contrary to fact. In the sentence:

I shall come if I have time,

the condition is real, i.e. it is possible that I shall have the time to come. In the sentence:

I would come if I had time,

the condition is contrary to fact, i.e. it states that I have no time, and that I would come if conditions were different.

Conditions contrary to fact are expressed only by Type 2 of the Subjunctive, also known as Subjunctive II. In conditions contrary to fact in present time:

- the condition is expressed only by Subjunctive II;
- the conclusion is expressed either by the present Subjunctive II or the Future Subjunctive II;

Wenn ich Zeit hätte, (so) käme ich

OR **würde ich kommen.**

If I had time, I would come.

In conditions contrary to fact in past time:

- the condition is expressed by the Perfect Subjunctive II;
- the conclusion is expressed either by the Past Subjunctive II or the Future Perfect Subjunctive II;

Wenn ich Zeit gehabt hätte, (so) wäre ich gekommen

OR **(so) würde ich gekommen sein.**

If I had had time, (then) I would have come.

The conclusion may precede the condition:

Ich käme, wenn ich Zeit hätte.

I would come if I had time.

Whenever **wenn** is omitted in the condition, inverted order is used:

Hätte ich Zeit, (so) käme ich.

Had I time, then I would come.

Hätte ich Zeit gehabt, (so) wäre ich gekommen.

Had I had time then I would have come.

Als ob, als wenn (as if, as though) introduce a surmise often contrary to fact and are followed by the Subjunctive II (or Subjunctive I):

Er ißt, als ob er hungrig wäre.

He eats as though he were hungry.

Er hat gegessen, als wenn er hungrig gewesen wäre.

He ate as if he had been hungry.

Whenever **ob** or **wenn** is omitted, inversion instead of dependent word order is used:

Er ißt, als wäre er hungrig.

He eats as if he were hungry.

Subjunctive--Principal Clauses

The Subjunctive I is used in principle clauses:

- to express formal wish:

Es **lebe** die Republik!
Long **live** the Republic!

So **möge** Gott mir **helfen**!
So **help** me God!

- to supply the missing forms of the imperative:

Gehen wir! = **Laßt** uns gehen!
Let us go

In the older language:

Gehe er! = Er **soll** gehen!
May he **go**. = He **should** go.

- Subjunctive I is also used in concessions:

Was es auch **sei**, ich werde dich nicht töten.
Whatever it may **be**, I shall not kill you.

Sei es auch noch so kalt (= Wie kalt es auch **sein mag**), wir werden ausgehen.
However cold it may **be**, we are going out.

The Subjunctive II, is used in principle clauses to express:

- informal wish:

Er **käme** gerne
OR Er **möchte** gerne kommen.
He **would like** to come.

Er **wäre** gerne gekommen.
He **would have liked** to come.

- exclamation:

Wenn er doch (or nur) **käme**!
OR **Käme** er doch!
If only he **would come**!

Wenn er doch **gekommen wäre**!
OR **Wäre** er doch **gekommen**!
If he **had** only **come**!

- possibility:

Es **könnte** (**möchte**) ihm **gelingen**.
He **might** **succeed**.

- probability:

Er **dürfte** kommen.
He **might** (**will probably**) **come**.

See also:

Indirect Discourse

Contrary Conditions

Verbs: Prefixes

Verbs--Inseparable Prefixes

Verbs--Separable Prefixes

Verbs--Double Prefixes

Verbs--Inseparable Prefixes

Inseparable prefixes are: **be-**, **ent-**, (**emp-**), **er-**, **ge-**, **ver-**, **zer-**; (usually also **hinter-**, **behind**; **miß-**, **mis-**; **voll-**, **full**; **wider-**, **against**). These prefixes are never stressed:

besie'gen erfah'ren verlie'ren

Verbs with inseparable prefixes do not take **ge-** in the past participle:

besiegt erfahren verloren

Meanings of the inseparable prefixes:

be- often has intensifying force; it changes intransitive verbs into transitive verbs:

arbeiten an + dative	work at	bearbeiten	work, treat
denken an + accusative	think of	bedenken	consider
schreiben über + accusative	write about	beschreiben	describe

ent- (**emp-** in **empfangen**) denotes separation or origin:

ehren	honor	entehren	dishonor
fliehen	flee	entfliehen	escape
stehen	stand	entstehen	originate

er- (original meaning **out of**) signifies the beginning or the result of an action:

wachen	be awake	erwachen	awake
schlagen	beat	erschlagen	slay, kill
trinken	drink	ertrinken	be drowned

ge- denotes collection or union:

frieren	freeze	gefrieren	freeze, congeal
fallen	fall	gefallen	please

ver- frequently has the negative meaning of **spoiling**, **erring**, **mistaking**, or of **away**, **forth**:

führen	lead	verführen	mislead
kaufen	buy	verkaufen	sell
lernen	learn	verlernen	unlearn (forget)

Ver- also denotes a change into a condition usually indicated by a noun or adjective which forms the stem of the verb:

arm	poor	verarmen	grow poor
deutsch	German	verdeutschen	translate into German
Gold	gold	vergolden	cover with gold

zer- denotes separation, destruction, and dissolution:

beißen	bite	zerbeißen	bite to pieces
brechen	break	zerbrechen	break to pieces
schneiden	cut	zerschneiden	cut to pieces

Verbs--Separable Prefixes

Separable prefixes have independent meanings and are always stressed:

aus	out
gehen	go
aus'gehen	go out
mit	with, along
nehmen	take
mit'nehmen	take along

Separation takes place in the simple tenses (i.e. in the present and past) and in the imperative:

ich **gehe** aus
I **go** out.

ich **ging** aus
I **went** out.

geh(e) aus!
Go out!

The particle **ge-** of the past participle and **zu** with the infinitive stand between the prefix and the verb, forming one unit:

Er ist nicht zurück**ge**kommen.
He **has** not returned.

Er versprach, sofort zurück**zu**kommen
He **promised** to return at once.

In dependent word order there is no separation:

Er ging, als ich **zurückkam**.
He left when I **returned**.

Verbs--Double Prefixes

Double prefixes are : **durch-**, **über-**, **unter-**, **um-**, **wieder-**. They are separable and stressed when the verb is used in a real, literal sense; they are inseparable and unstressed when the verb is used in an unreal, figurative sense:

Real or literal:

wie'derholen bring back

Er **hat** das Buch **wiedergeholt**.

He (**has**) **brought back** the book.

ü'bergehen go over

Die Soldaten **gingen** zum Feind **über**

The soldiers **went over** (**deserted**) to the enemy.

u'mstellen rearrange

Unreal or figurative:

wiederho'len review

Er **hat** die Aufgabe **wiederholt**.

He (**has**) **reviewed** the lesson.

überge'hen omit, skip

Wir **übergingen** diese Aufgabe.

We **omitted** this exercise.

umste'llen surround

Articles

Definite Article
Indefinite Article

Definite Article

	Masc	Neut.	Fem.	Pl.	
Nom.	der	das	die	die	the
Acc.	den	das	die	die	the
Dat.	dem	dem	der	den	to the
Gen.	des	des	der	der	of the

The definite article is frequently contracted with certain prepositions:

an dem = am	in dem = im
an das = ans	in das = ins
auf das = aufs	von dem = vom
bei dem = beim	zu dem = zum
durch das = durchs	zu der = zur
für das = fürs	

The definite article is generally used as in English. Yet in German it is also used:

- with abstract nouns, verbal nouns (infinitives as nouns), or nouns of class or material when used in a general sense:

Die Liebe ist blind.
Love is blind.

Unser Onkel liebt **das** Reisen.
Our uncle loves to travel.

OR Our uncle loves traveling.

- with names of seasons, months, and days, and with names of places and streets:

Der Frühling kommt.
Spring is coming.

Hier ist **der** Königsplatz, neben **der** Alexanderstraße.
Here is King's Square, next to Alexander St.

- instead of the possessive adjective with parts of the body and clothing when the owner is clearly understood:

Er nimmt **den** Hut ab.
He is taking his hat off.

Der Vater drückt ihm **die** Hand.
His father squeezed his hand.

- in a distributive sense:

Thomas kommt einmal **den** Tag, (**die** Woche, **den** Monat, etc.)
Thomas comes once a day, (week, month, etc.).

Diese Äpfel kosten fünf Pfennig **das** Stück.
These apples cost five cents apiece.

- familiarly with names of friends, acquaintances, and well-known personalities:

Die Marie ist krank.
Marie is sick.

Kennst du **den** Faust?
Are you familiar with Faust?

- with names of certain countries or regions:

die Türkei Turkey **die** Schweiz Switzerland

das Elsaß the Alsace
 region
in **der** Schweiz in Switzerland

in **der** Türkei in Turkey
im Elsaß in the Alsace
 region

The definite article is omitted:

- in poetry and poetic prose with nouns limited by a preceding genitive:

unseres Großvaters Haus
our grandfather's house

des Volkes Stimme
the voice of the people

des Tages Arbeit
the day's work

- as in English in many set phrases:

über Land und Meer
over land and sea

durch Feld und Wald
through field and forest

mit Weib und Kind
with wife and child

Indefinite Article

Ein is known as the indefinite article, equivalent to the English articles **a** or **an**. The indefinite article contrasts with the definite article in that it is not as defined, or specific:

Der junge Mann kam und ging.

The young man came and left.

Ein junger Mann kam und ging.

A young man came and left.

The following is a chart for **ein** declensions. Since **ein** has no plural, we give the plural of **kein**: **keine** (no).

	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	Pl.	
Nom.	ein	eine	ein	keine	a
Acc.	einen	eine	ein	keine	a
Dat.	einem	einer	einem	keinen	to a
Gen.	eines	einer	eines	keiner	of a

The indefinite article is generally omitted before an unmodified predicate nominative:

Er ist Maler.

He is a painter.

Sie ist Lehrerin.

She is a teacher.

But with a modifier:

Er ist **ein** berühmter Maler.

He is a famous painter.

Sie ist **eine** gute Lehrerin.

She is a good teacher.

Pronouns

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Personal Pronouns

The personal pronouns are:

		I	you	he	she	it	-self
Singular	Nom.	ich	du	er	sie	es	
	Acc.	mich	dich	ihn	sie	es	sich
	Dat.	mir	dir	ihm	ihr	ihm	
	Gen.	meiner	deiner	seiner	ihrer	seiner	
		we	you	they	you (form.)		-selves
Plural	Nom.	wir	ihr	sie	Sie		
	Acc.	uns	euch	sie	Sie		sich
	Dat.	uns	euch	ihnen	Ihnen		
	Gen.	unser	euer	ihrer	Ihrer		

Formal and informal pronouns:

Modern English has only one second person pronoun: **you**. German, however, has three second person pronouns: **du**, **ihr**, and **Sie**. The usage of these pronouns is governed by the number of persons being addressed and by the speaker's relationship to them. **Du** and **ihr** are used when addressing family members, close friends, children, animals, and God. **Sie** is used in polite and formal address. **Sie** (**you**) is always capitalized and takes its verb in the third person plural, and should not be confused with **sie** (**she**) or **sie** (**they**).

Wegen meiner (**for my sake**), **wegen deiner** (**for your sake**), etc., are frequently replaced by **meinetwegen**, **deinetwegen**, **seinetwegen**, **ihtretwegen**; **unsretwegen**, **euretwegen**, **ihretwegen** (**Ihretwegen**). The third person of the personal pronoun agrees with the noun to which it refers in gender and number:

der Tisch -- er	the table -- it
die Uhr -- sie	the clock -- it
das Haus -- es	the house -- it

As an object **es** may be contracted to **'s** and follow **mir**, **dir**, **ihr**, and **sich**:

Er hat mir'**s** gesagt.
He (has) told me so.

Er hat sich'**s** gedacht.
He thought so.

Es is often the grammatical subject introducing the logical subject:

Es ist **niemand** zu Hause.
Nobody is at home.

Es ruft **jemand**.
Someone is calling.

It is I, **you**, **he**, etc. is rendered in German by **ich bin es**, **du bist es**, **er ist es**, **wir sind es**, etc. The **e** is often elided: **ich bin's**, **du bist's**:

Wer ist da?
Who's there?

Ich bin'**s**.
It is I.

When the personal pronoun refers to inanimate things, **da(r)** (**there**) plus a preposition is used ("**r**" is inserted before vowels for ease in pronunciation:

Sie sorgte **dafür**.

She took care **of it**.

Ich kann sie nicht **daran** hindern.

I cannot prevent them **from** (doing) **it**.

The reflexive pronoun has the same forms as the personal pronoun, except in the third person singular and plural where **sich** is used:

Er (sie) **hat** kein Geld bei **sich**.

He (she) **has** no money with **him** (**her**).

See also:

Verbs--Reflexive

The reciprocal pronoun is **einander** (each other, one another); **sich** is often used in its place when no ambiguity can arise:

Sie lieben **sich** (or **einander**).

They love **each other** (or **one another**).

The intensive pronoun **selbst** or **selber** (**self**), which is added for emphasis, is never declined:

Hilf dir **selbst**!

Help **yourself**!

Selbst without **sich** emphasizing a noun or pronoun usually means **even**:

Selbst die Offiziere (**selbst sie**) wurden ängstlich.

Even the officers (**even they**) became anxious.

Possessives

The possessives are:

Sg.		Pl.	
mein	my	unser	our
dein	your (thy)	euer	your
sein	his, its	ihr	their
ihr	her	Ihr	your (formal)

When used in connection with a noun they are possessive adjectives and are declined like **ein** and **kein**.

See also:

Indefinite Article

Unser and **euer** may drop the **e** from the stem when inflected: **unser**, **unseres**, **unserem**, **unseren** or **unsrem**, **unsren**; **euer**, **eueres**, **euerem**, or **eurem**, etc.

The possessive pronouns are much like the possessive adjectives except that they are not used in conjunction with a noun. Instead, they take the place of the noun and refer back to their possession:

mein	dein	sein	ihr	unser etc.
der meine	der deine	der seine	der ihre	der unsere
der meinige	der deinige	der seinige	der ihrige	der unsrige

Mein, **dein**, etc. are declined like **ein** and **kein** with the exception of three cases, namely those cases in which **ein** has no endings:

	Masc	Fem	Neut	Masc	Fem	Neut
Nom.	meiner	meine	mein(e)s	unserer	unsere	unser(e)s
Acc.	meinen	meine	mein(e)s	unseren	unsere	unser(e)s
Dat.	meinem	meiner	meinem	unserem	unserer	unserem
Gen.	meines	meiner	meines	unseres	unserer	unseres

Possessive pronouns are used to replace possessive adjectives and their nouns whenever the noun referred to is clearly understood:

Mein Haus ist so schön wie **sein(e)s** (**das seine**, **das seinige**).

My house is as beautiful as **his**.

Ein and **kein** are used as pronouns in the same way as **mein**. Compare:

Das ist **mein** Stock.

That is **my** cane.

Das ist **meiner**, **der meine**, etc.

That is **mine**.

Das ist **unser** Haus.

That is **our** house.

Das ist **unseres**, **das unsere**, etc.

That is **ours**.

Das ist **ein** (or **kein**) Haus.

That is **a** (or **no**) house.

Das ist **eins** (**keins**).

That is **one** (**not one**).

The uninflected forms of **mein**, **dein**, **sein**, **unser**, **euer**, (uninflected **ihr** or **Ihr** do not occur) are used in the predicate to denote simple ownership:

Dieser Hut ist **mein**.
This hat is **mine**.

Jenes Haus ist **sein**.
That house is **his**.

But:

Dieser Hut ist **ihrer** (**Ihrer**).
This hat is **hers** (**yours**).

Jenes Haus ist **ihres** (**Ihres**).
That house is **theirs** (**yours**).

See also:

Indefinite Article

Demonstratives

The demonstratives are:

der	that (one), he (who)	dieser	this , the latter
jeder (pl.: alle)	each, every (pl.: all)	jener	that (one), the former
mancher	many a	solcher	such, such a
welcher	which, that, what	derjenige	the one (who), he (who)
derselbe	the same		

Dieser, jeder, jener, mancher, solcher, welcher decline like the definite article and are also called **der words**:

	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	Plural
Nom.	dieser	diese	dieses (dies)	diese
Acc.	diesen	diese	dieses (dies)	diese
Dat.	diesem	dieser	diesem	diesen
Gen.	dieses	dieser	dieses	dieser

Der, used as a pronoun, is inflected as follows:

	Masc	Fem.	Neut.	Pural
Nom.	der	die	das	die
Acc.	den	die	das	die
Dat.	dem	der	dem	denen
Gen.	dessen	deren	dessen	deren (derer)

Das and **dies** referring to a predicate nominative remain uninflected. The genitive forms of **dessen** and **deren** are used instead of the possessive adjective whenever ambiguity arises:

Er sprach zu Hans und **dessen** Offizieren.
He spoke to Hans and **his** (Hans') officers.

Er sprach zu Hans und **seinen** Offizieren is ambiguous because **seinen** (**his**) may refer to **er** or **Hans**.

The genitive plural **derer** is used before a relative.

Derjenige is used instead of **der** as an antecedent of a relative pronoun and is strongly emphatic:

Es sind **diejenigen**, die sie bewaffnet hatte.
They are **those** to whom she had given arms.

Derselbe is declined like **derjenige**:

Schopenhauer aß in **demselben** Gasthaus, in dem Rossini aß.
Schopenhauer ate at **the same** inn at which Rossini was eating.

Solch, (**such a**) remains uninflected when followed by **ein**: **solch ein Unrecht** (**such an injustice**); **solch eine Grausamkeit** (**such a cruelty**). In colloquial language **so ein** is often used instead of **solch** : **ein**: **so ein Unrecht, so eine Grausamkeit**.

Relative Pronouns

There are two relative pronouns, **der** and **welcher**, both meaning **who**, **which**, **that**. The relative pronoun is always expressed in German:

die Geschichte, **die (welche)** ich lese
the story (**that/which**) I am reading

The relative **der** is declined like the demonstrative **der** according to its function in the relative clause:

	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	Plural
Nom.	der	die	das	die
Acc.	den	die	das	die
Dat.	dem	der	dem	denen
Gen.	dessen	deren	dessen	deren

Welcher is less frequently used than **der**. It is declined like **dieser** except in the genitive where forms of relative **der** are used.

	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	Plural
Nom.	welcher	welche	welches	welche
Acc.	welchen	welche	welches	welche
Dat.	welchem	welcher	welchem	welchen
Gen.	-----	-----	-----	-----

A relative agrees with its antecedent in gender and number; its case is determined by the construction of the clause.

Der König, **der** viel Gold besaß, lebte in Afrika.
The King, **who** possessed a lot of Gold, lived in Africa.

Der König, **dessen** Land reich war, lebte in Afrika.
The King, **whose** country was rich, lived in Africa.

Der König, von **dem** die Geschichte erzählt, lebte in Afrika.
The King, of **whom** the story is told, lived in Africa.

Der König, **den** Alexander besuchte, lebte in Afrika.
The King, **whom** Alexander visited, lived in Africa.

(Since the relative clause is a dependent clause, the conjugated verb comes at the end of the clause.)

Wer often means **who**, **whoever**, **whosoever**; and **was**, means **that**, **which**, or **what**:

Wer Zeit hat,...
He who has time...

Was er tun kann, tut er.
What he can do, he does.

Was is used instead of relative **das** when the antecedent is:

- a neuter pronoun:

Das ist alles, **was** ich habe.
This is all (**that**) I have.

- a superlative adjective used as a noun:

Er tat das Beste, **was** er tun konnte.
He did the best (**that**) he could do.

- a clause:

Der König war sehr gerecht, **was** seine Gast erstaunte.
The king was very just, **which** surprised his guest.

A relative pronoun referring to inanimate things and governed by a preposition is frequently replaced by **wo(r)** plus preposition; **r** is inserted before vowels for ease in pronunciation:

das Land, **wovon** (=von dem) wir sprachen,...;
the country **of which** we spoke

das Land, **worin** (=in dem) sie wohnten,...
the country **in which** they lived

Interrogatives

The interrogatives are:

wer	who
wo	where
warum	why
was für ein	what kind of
welch ein	what a
was	what
wann	when
wie	how
welcher	which (one)

Welcher is declined like **dieser**:

Welche Geschichte erzählte er?

What story did he tell?

Von **welchen** Knaben sprechen Sie?

Of **which** lads are you speaking?

Was für ein inflects only **ein**:

In **was für einem** Buch steht die Geschichte?

In **what kind of** book is the story (situated)?

Ein is omitted in the plural:

Was für Knaben sind sie?

What kind of boys are they?

Was für ein and **welch ein** are often used in exclamations:

Was für eine Grausamkeit!

What cruelty!

Welch ein böser Streich!

What an evil trick!

Solch is used in the same way:

Solch ein Streich!

Such a trick!

Wer refers to persons and is inflected according to case:

Nom.	wer	who
Acc.	wen	to whom
Dat.	wem	for whom
Gen.	wessen	whose

Wer ist da?

Who is there?

Mit **wem** spricht er?

With **whom** is he speaking?

Wen sieht er?

Whom does he see?

Wessen Freund ist er?

Whose friend is he?

Was refers to things and is used only in the nominative and accusative, which are alike:

Was ist das?

What is that?

Was sagen Sie?

What do you say?

Was dependent upon a preposition and referring to inanimate things is replaced by **wo(r)** with the preposition affixed:

Womit schreiben Sie?

With what do you write?

Worüber ärgern Sie sich?

About what are you annoyed?

Indefinite Pronouns

Indefinite pronouns are:

etwas	something, some;	uninflected: etwas Neues
nichts	nothing;	uninflected: nichts Gutes
jemand	somebody;	inflected: jemand(es), jemand(em), jemand(en)
niemand	no one;	inflected like jemand
jedermann	everybody;	inflected: jedermanns, jedermann, jedermann
man	one, they, people;	inflected: eines, einem, einen.

Er tut **einem** leid.

One feels sorry for him.

Unglück trifft **einen** oft unerwartet.

Misfortune strikes **one** often unexpectedly.

Pronoun Help

Sg.	Nom.		Acc.		Dat.	
1st	ich	I	mich	me	mir	to me
2nd	du	you	dich	you	dir	to you (familiar)
	Sie	you	Sie	you	Ihnen	to you (formal)
3rd	er	he	ihn	him	ihm	to him
	sie	she	sie	her	ihr	to her
	es	it	es	it	ihm	to it
Pl.						
1st	wir	we	uns	us	uns	to us
2nd	ihr	you	euch	you	euch	to you (familiar)
	Sie	you	Sie	you	Ihnen	to you (formal)
3rd	sie	they	sie	them	ihnen	to them

Nouns

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Nouns--Gender

In English the natural gender determines the grammatical gender; **man** in English is replaced by the masculine pronoun **he**, **woman** by the feminine pronoun **she**, and **tree**, **table**, or **chair** by the neuter pronoun **it**. There are not such definite rules for determining the gender of a German noun, yet is necessary to know the gender of a noun before one can decline it.

The following are **Masculine**:

- names of males, days, months, seasons, and points of the compass:

der Lehrer	teacher
der Montag	Monday
der Frühling	Spring
der Hund	dog
der Februar	February
der Norden	the north

- times of day:

der Morgen	morning
der Mittag	noon
der Nachmittag	afternoon
der Abend	evening

Exception: **die Nacht** night

- nouns ending in **-ich**, **-ig**, and **-ing**:

der Teppich	carpet
der König	king
der Jüngling	youth

- nouns ending in **-en** (except infinitives used as nouns):

der Boden	floor, soil
der Hafen	harbor

The following are **Feminine**:

- collective and abstract nouns ending in **-ei**, **-heit**, **-keit**, **-schaft**, **-ung**:

die Bäckerei	bakery
die Dankbarkeit	gratitude
die Endung	the ending
die Freiheit	freedom
die Freundschaft	friendship

- nearly all nouns ending in **-e**:

die Kälte	the cold
die Größe	the size
die Rose	the rose

- nouns derived from masculines by adding **-in**:

die Freundin	female friend
die Lehrerin	female teacher

- nouns of foreign origin ending in **-ie**, **-ion**, **-ik**, and **-tät**:

die Melodie	melody
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die Fabrik	factory
die Nation	nation
die Universität	university

The following are **Neuter**:

- infinitives used as nouns:

das Gehen	the going, "when the going gets tough..."
das Reisen	traveling

- diminutives ending in **-chen** and **-lein**:

das Schwesterchen	little sister
das Fräulein	Miss

- almost all names of countries:

Deutschland	Germany
Frankreich	France

Exceptions:

die Schweiz	Switzerland
die Türkei	Turkey

- metals:

das Eisen	iron
das Gold	gold
das Silber	silver

Exception: **der Stahl** steel

- most nouns ending in **-nis**, **-sal**, **-sel**, **-tum**:

das Gefängnis	prison
das Schicksal	fate
das Rätsel	riddle

- nouns of foreign origin not qualifying under the above rules:

das Auto	car
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Noun--Declension

The nominative and genitive singular and the nominative plural are called the **principal parts** of a noun because all other cases are derived from them. The principal parts of **der Vater** are:

Nominative	der Vater	the father
Genitive	des Vaters	the father's
Nom. Plural	die Väter	the fathers

Noun declensions are classifications of nouns based on the four forms, or cases, which nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and articles take in the German sentence according to their function in that sentence. The four cases of nouns in German are:

- The **nominative**, used in the subject, and in the predicate after a linking verb (e.g. **sein--to be**):

Der Wagen fährt sehr schnell.

The car goes very fast.

Paul ist **der Mann**.

Paul is **the man**.

Der Mann is known here as a **predicate nominative**, a substantive which refers to the subject and is, therefore, also in the nominative case.

- The **accusative**, which indicates the direct object, and which is also required with the use of some prepositions (**bis** (**until**), **durch** (**through**), **für** (**for**), **gegen** (**against**), **ohne** (**without**), **um** (**around**)):

Hans findet **das Hotel**.

Hans finds **the hotel**.

Mein Freund singt **ohne mich**.

My friend sings **without me**.

- The **dative**, denotes the indirect object. It is also required with certain verbs (i.e. **helfen**, **antworten**, etc.) and prepositions (**aus** (**out of**), **außer** (**besides**), **bei** (**near**), **gegenüber** (**across from**), **mit** (**with**), **nach** (**after**), **seit** (**since**), **von** (**from**), **zu** (**to**)) require this case:

Ich gebe **meinem Freund** das Buch.

I give **my friend** the book.

Peter antwortet **mir** nicht.

Peter does not answer **me**.

Ich habe das Buch bei **mir**.

I have the book with **me**.

- The **genitive**, used to denote possession or relationship. It also occurs with some prepositions and verbs, and may be translated by 's, **of the**, or an adjective:

die Stimme **der Frau**

the woman's voice

trotz **der Hitze**

in spite **of the heat**

die Zivilisation **des Westens**

Western civilization

Noun--Classes

Nouns may be divided according to their principal parts into five classes (or according to their plural endings into four classes; Class 5 is then considered as exceptions to Class 4.)

Class 1 adds no endings in the nominative plural, but often has an umlaut: **der Vater** (father), **die Väter** (fathers). To Class 1 belong:

- masculine and neuter nouns ending in **-el**, **-en**, **-er**, as **der Esel** (donkey), **der Garten** (garden), **der Lehrer** (teacher).
- diminutives ending in **-chen** and **-lein**, as **das Mädchen** (girl), **das Fräulein** (young lady).
- two feminines: **die Mutter** (mother), **die Tochter** (daughter).

Class 2 adds **-e** to form the nominative plural and often has an umlaut: **der Arm** (arm), **die Arme**; **der Sohn** (son), **die Söhne**. To Class 2 belong mainly monosyllabic masculine and feminine nouns: **der Berg** (mountain), **die Berge**; **die Stadt** (city), **die Städte**.

Class 3 adds **-er** and always takes an umlaut where possible (**a** changes to **ä**, **o** to **ö**, **u** to **ü**, **au** to **äu**): **das Buch** (book), **die Bücher**; **das Haus** (house), **die Häuser**. To class 3 belong most monosyllabic neuter and some masculine nouns: **das Kind** (child), **die Kinder**; **der Mann** (man), **die Männer**.

Class 4 adds **-n**, **-en**, or **-nen**, and never takes umlaut: **die Schule** (school), **die Schulen**; **die Tür** (door), **die Türen**; feminine nouns ending in **-in** take **-nen**: **die Freundin** (girl-friend), **die Freundinnen**. Masculine nouns take **-n** or **-en** also in the singular.

der Knabe	des Knaben	dem Knaben	den Knaben	the boy
der Mensch	des Menschen	dem Menschen	den Menschen	the human being

To Class 4 belong most feminine nouns and some masculine nouns.

Class 5 (also called the exceptions to Class 4) takes **-(e)s** in the genitive singular, and **-(e)n** in all cases of the plural: **das Auge** (eye), **des Auges**, **die Augen**; **der Doktor** (doctor), **des Doktors**, **die Doktoren**. To Class 5 belong:

- some foreign nouns as **der Doktor** (doctor), **der Professor** (professor), **der Pastor** (pastor), **das Insekt** (insect), **das Interesse** (interest), **das Juwel** (jewel), **der Muskel** (muscle), **der Nerv** (nerve), **das Drama** (drama: plur. **die Dramen**).
- some other masculine and neuter nouns as **das Auge** (eye), **das Bett** (bed), **das Ohr** (ear), **der Schmerz** (pain), **der See** (lake), **der Strahl** (ray).
- **Der Bauer** (farmer) and **der Nachbar** (neighbor) may be declined according to Class 4 or 5.
- **Das Herz** (heart) inflects: **das Herzens**, **dem Herzen**, **das Herz**, **die Herzen**. Similarly, **der Friede** (peace), **des Friedens**, **dem Frieden**, **den Frieden**.

Endings

Class	1	2	3	4	5
Sg.	m,(f),n	m, f, n	m, n	m, f	m, n
Nom.	-	-	-	-	-
Acc.	-	-	-	-(e)n	-
Dat.	-	-	-	-(e)n	-
Gen.	-s	-(e)s	-(e)s	-(e)n	-(e)s
Pl.					
Nom.	-	-e	-er	-(e)n	-(e)n
Acc.	-	-e	-er	-(e)n	-(e)n
Dat.	-n	-en	-ern	-(e)n	-(e)n
Gen.	-	-e	-er	-(e)n	-(e)n

Umlaut

Class	1	2	3	4	5
Masc.	often	often	always	never	never
Fem.	both	always	-----	never	-----
Neut.	never	never	always	-----	never

Noun Endings

Rules:

- Feminine nouns remain unchanged in the singular.
- The genitive singular of masculines and neuters:
- Nouns of more than one syllable generally take **-s** (except masculines belonging to Class 4):

der Vater	father	des Vaters
das Mädchen	girl	des Mädchens

- Monosyllabic nouns usually take **-es**:

der Mann	man	des Mannes
----------	-----	------------

- Nouns ending in a sibilant (**s, ß, sch, z**) always take **-es**:

das Haus	house	des Hauses
der Fuß	foot	des Fußes
der Tisch	table	des Tisches
der Schmerz	pain	des Schmerzes

- Names of persons add **-s**, but no apostrophe:

Schillers Werke	Schiller's works
Wagners Opern	Wagner's operas

also feminines:

Maries Vater	Maria's father
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- Names ending in an **s** sound take an apostrophe instead of **-s** or add **-ens**: **Hans'** or **Hansens Mutter**; **Fritz'** or **Fritzens Bruder**. The genitive ending is omitted when the name is preceded by a word already in the genitive:

die Werke unseres Goethe
the works of our Goethe
die Reden des großen Lincoln
the speeches of the great Lincoln

Names of places either add **-s** to the proper noun, or use the genitive article:

die Straßen Chikagos
the streets of Chicago
die Geschichte des alten Athen
the history of old Athens

but names of places ending in **-s** take **von**:

die Straßen von Paris
the streets of Paris

The dative **-e** is added to monosyllabic and less frequently to polysyllabic nouns (except feminines): it is nearly always suppressed in colloquial speech: **dem Buch**, **dem Buche**; **dem Tisch**, **dem Tische**; **dem König**, **dem Könige**.

The accusative of feminine and neuter nouns is identical with their nominative. This rule also applies to articles, adjectives, and pronouns.

The dative plural always ends in **-n**.

Compound nouns inflect only their last component: **des Schulzimmers**. The last component also determines the gender of the noun:

die Schule	the school
------------	------------

das Zimmer	the room
das Schulzimmer	the classroom

Nouns--Nominative Case Help

The nominative and genitive singular and the nominative plural are called the **principal parts** of a noun because all other cases are derived from them. The principal parts of **der Vater** are:

Nominative	der Vater	the father
Genitive	des Vaters	the father's
Nom. Plural	die Väter	the fathers

Noun declensions are classifications of nouns based on the four forms, or **cases**, which nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and articles take in the German sentence according to their function in that sentence. The **nominative** is used when a noun or pronoun is the subject of a verb, and in the predicate after a linking verb (e.g. **sein**--to be):

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The car goes very fast.

Paul ist **der Mann**.

Paul is **the man**.

(**Der Mann** is known here as a **predicate nominative**, a substantive that refers to the subject and is, therefore, also in the nominative case.)

Nouns--Accusative Case Help

The **accusative case** indicates the direct object, and also occurs with certain prepositions:

Hans findet **das Hotel**.

Hans finds **the hotel**.

Mein Freund singt **ohne mich**.

My friend sings **without me**.

A noun in a prepositional phrase will take the accusative case when it follows these prepositions:

bis	until, as far as
-----	------------------

für	for
-----	-----

ohne	without
------	---------

durch	through, by
-------	-------------

gegen	against, into
-------	---------------

um	around, at
----	------------

Nouns--Dative Help

The **dative case** denotes the indirect object. Some verbs and prepositions also require that their objects take this case:

Ich gebe **meinem Freund** das Buch.

I give **my friend** the book.

Peter antwortet **mir** nicht.

Peter does not answer **me**.

Auf **dem Haus** sitzt ein Storch.

A stork sits on top of **the house**.

The following prepositions require the dative case:

aus	out of, from, (made) of
bei	at, near, with
mit	with, by
seit	since, for
zu	to, at, for
außer	except, for, out of
gegenüber	across from
nach	after, to, according to
von	from, by, of

Some prepositions may take either the dative or accusative case. The dative case indicates an action that occurs in a fixed position or location. The accusative case indicates movement toward or into a place. The following prepositions may take either the accusative or dative case:

an	at, on, to
hinter	behind
neben	beside
über	over
vor	before
auf	on, upon
in	in, into
unter	under, among
zwischen	between

The majority of German verbs require the accusative case for direct objects. The following common verbs use the dative case:

antworten	to answer
danken	to thank
drohen	to threaten
folgen	to follow
gehören	to obey
glauben	to believe
helfen	to help
passen	to fit, to suit
schmeicheln	to flatter
verzeihen	to forgive

begegnen	to meet
dienen	to serve
entgehen	to evade
gefallen	to please
gehören	to belong to
gratulieren	to congratulate
imponieren	to impress
schaden	to hurt
vertrauen	to trust

Nouns--Genitive Help

The **genitive case** denotes possession or relationship. It also occurs with some prepositions, and may be translated by 's, **of the**, or an adjective:

die Stimme **der Frau**

the **woman's** voice

trotz **der Hitze**

in spite **of the heat**

die Zivilisation **des Westens**

Western civilization

The following prepositions require the genitive case:

(an)statt	instead of
diesseits	this side of
jenseits	on the other side of
um ... willen	for ... sake
wegen	because of
außerhalb	outside of
innerhalb	within
trotz	in spite of
während	during

Declensions

There are four different cases in German, depending on the function of the word in the sentence.

Subject of a sentence see [Nouns--Nominative Case Help](#);

Direct object see [Nouns--Accusative Case Help](#);

Indirect object see [Nouns--Dative Help](#);

Denotes possession see [Nouns--Genitive Help](#).

Adjectives can be declined in **Strong, Weak or Mixed form**. (See [Adjective Declension](#))

Adjectives

Adjective Declension

Adjective Comparison

Adjective Declension

Adjectives decline according to their type. There are two types of adjectives. The first type is one with which most people are familiar:

The **pretty, young** girl kissed the **handsome** man.

The **quick, brown** fox jumped over the **lazy** dog.

That was an **interesting** anecdote he told.

In the above sentences, the adjectives precede the nouns they describe and are easily identifiable. These are known as **attributive adjectives**.

The other type of adjective, known as the predicate adjective, is less apparent in a sentence. **Predicate adjectives** are adjectives which refer back to the subject:

The girl is **pretty and young**.

The fox was **quick**.

In contrast to normal adjectives, **predicate adjectives** do not precede the nouns they modify. They usually are in the same position in which we normally find direct objects, but they are **not** the recipient of an action. Instead they are adjectives which describe the subject but are found later in the sentence (with respect to the subject).

Diese Anekdote ist sehr **interessant**.

This anecdote is very **interesting**.

An adjective appearing directly before the noun it modifies is declined:

diese **interessante** Anekdote.

this **interesting** anecdote

Predicate adjectives are not declined:

Die Anekdote war **interessant**.

The anecdote was **interesting**.

Attributive adjectives take two sets of endings when declined: strong and weak endings.

Strong Declension

- Strong endings are the same as **dieser** endings and almost like those of the definite article. When the genitive of a noun ends in **-(e)s** the adjective takes **-en**: **alten** **Freundes**; but before nouns of Class 4: **gutes** **Knaben**. The ending **-es** is found in certain set phrases: **geradeswegs** or **gerade(n)wegs**, (**straightway**).

	Masc	Fem.	Neut.	Pl.
Nom.	-er	-e	-es	-e
Acc.	-en	-e	-es	-e
Dat.	-em	-er	-em	-en
Gen.	-(en)	-er	-(en)	-er

- Strong endings indicate the gender, number, and case of a noun when there is no limiting article to convey this information.

good friend

Singular	Plural
guter Freund	gute Freunde
guten Freundes	guter Freunde
gutem Freunde	guten Freunden
guten Freund	gute Freunde

- The weak endings are **-en** in all cases except the nominative singular of all three genders and the accusative singular of the feminine and neuter genders:

Masc	Fem.	Neut.	Pl.
------	------	-------	-----

Nom.	-e	-e	-e	-en
Acc.	-en	-e	-e	-en
Dat.	-en	-en	-en	-en
Gen.	-en	-en	-en	-en

- Weak endings are used when the attributive (preceding the noun) adjective follows the definite article or a der word.

the little boy

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	der kleine Knabe	die kleinen Knaben
Acc.	den kleinen Knaben	die kleinen Knaben
Dat.	dem kleinen Knaben	den kleinen Knaben
Gen.	des kleinen Knaben	der kleinen Knaben

Mixed Declension:

After an uninflected **ein** word (**ein** (a), **kein** (no), **mein** (my), **dein** (your--familiar), etc.), i.e. in the nominative singular masculine and neuter and accusative neuter, (the instances where these words take no endings), strong endings are used:

ein guter Freund

a good friend

unser altes Haus

our old house

After inflected forms of **ein** words weak endings are used:

meines guten Freundes.

of my good friend

This results in a mixed declension (combining strong and weak forms).

mein guter Freund

my good friend

meinen guten Freund

to my good friend

meinem guten Freund

for my good friend

meines guten Freundes

of my good friend

meine guten Freunde

my good friends

Derselbe (the same) and **derjenige** (the one who, he who) inflect each component part: **der** like the definite article, **selbe**, **jenige**, like weak adjectives.

	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	Plural
Nom.	derselbe	dieselbe	dasselbe	dieselben
Acc.	denselben	dieselbe	dasselbe	dieselben
Gen.	desselben	derselben	desselben	derselben
Dat.	demselben	derselben	demselben	denselben

Two or more adjectives modifying the same noun, and following a **der** word, have the same endings:

die interessante kleine Anekdote (nominative)

the interesting little anecdote

der interessantesten kleinen Anekdote (genitive)

of the interesting little anecdote (etc.)

Participles are declined like adjectives:

the sleeping child	the beloved dog
das schlafende Kind	der geliebte Hund
das schlafende Kind	den geliebten Hund
dem schlafenden Kinde	dem geliebten Hunde
des schlafenden Kindes	des geliebten Hundes
die schlafenden Kinder	die geliebten Hunde

Adjectives and participles used as nouns are declined as adjectives:

the German (male)	a German (male)	the relative (male)
der Deutsche	ein Deutscher	der Verwandte
den Deutschen	einen Deutschen	den Verwandten
dem Deutschen	einem Deutschen	dem Verwandten
des Deutschen	eines Deutschen	des Verwandten
the Germans(plural)	German	the relatives
die Deutschen	Deutsche	die Verwandten
die Deutschen	Deutsche	die Verwandten
den Deutschen	Deutschen	den Verwandten
der Deutschen	Deutscher	der Verwandten

Irregularities:

- Hoch (high) changes ch to h when e follows:

das Haus ist hoch

the house is tall

ein hohes Haus

a tall house

- Adjectives ending in -el, -en, -er ordinarily drop the e of these endings when inflected:

dunkel	dark	ein dunkles Zimmer	a dark room
selten	rare	ein seltnes Buch	a rare book
bitter	bitter	eine bittre Pille	a bitter pill

Adjective Comparison

German and English both have three basic forms of the adjective:

Positive	schnell	quick
Comparative	schneller	quicker
Superlative	schnellst	quickest

The adjective's comparative form in German is indicated by the **-er** ending. The superlative is indicated by the **-(e)st** ending added to the positive form.

Most monosyllabic adjectives having the stem vowels **a**, **o**, or **u** in the positive take an umlaut in the comparative and superlative: **warm** (warm), **wärmer** (warmer), **wärmst** (warmest). Polysyllabic adjectives never take an umlaut:

bekannt	well-known
bekannter	more well-known
bekanntest	most well-known

Adjectives ending in **-d**, **-t**, or a sibilant (**s**, **ß**, **sch**, **z**) form the superlative with **-est** to avoid difficulties in pronunciation:

alt	old	ältest	oldest
kurz	short	kürzest	shortest
heiß	hot	heißest	hottest

The following adjectives are irregular and should be memorized:

groß, größer, größt	big, bigger, biggest
gut, besser, best	good, better, best
hoch, höher, höchst	high, higher, highest
nah(e), näher, nächst	near, nearer, nearest
viel, mehr, meist	much, more, the most

In comparison **wie** is used after a positive, **als** after a comparative:

Ich bin **so** groß **wie** du.
I am **as** tall **as** you.

Karl ist größer **als** ich.
Karl is taller **than** I.

German uses the article when English does:

das beste Buch
the best book

Exception:

die meisten Leute (most people)

Am with the superlative is most frequently used with the predicate:

Dieses Werk ist **am bekanntesten**.
This work is **the most well-known**.

As attributes, comparatives and superlatives are inflected like adjectives:

Das ist der **bessere** Wein.
That is the **better** wine.

Heute ist **schöneres** Wetter.
Today (there) is **more beautiful** weather.

Sie ist meine **beste** Freundin.
She is my **best** friend.

The comparative and the superlative, like other forms of the adjective, may be used as nouns:

Er hat **etwas Besseres**.

He has **something better**.

Wissen Sie **das Neueste**?

Do you know **the latest (thing)**?

Numerals

Numerals

The cardinal numerals are:

0	null	20	zwanzig
1	ein(s)	21	einundzwanzig
2	zwei	22	zweiundzwanzig
3	drei	40	vierzig
4	vier	50	fünfzig
5	fünf	60	sechzig
6	sechs	70	siebzig
7	sieben	80	achtzig
8	acht	90	neunzig
9	neun	100	(ein)hundert
10	zehn	101	hunderteins
11	elf	121	hunderteinundzwanzig
12	zwölf	1000	tausend
13	dreizehn	1 000 000	eine Million
14	vierzehn	1 000 000 000	eine Milliarde
15	fünfzehn	1 000 000 000 000	eine Billion
16	sechzehn		
17	siebzehn		
18	achtzehn		
19	neunzehn		

Beyond the number 20, the numerals are read in German, literally, as "one and twenty", "two and twenty", "four and fifty", etc. Aside from **Hundert** and **Tausend** when these are used as nouns, (**das Hundert**, **das Tausend**), only **ein** is ordinarily inflected. When used as an adjective, it is inflected like the indefinite article:

Er hatte nur **ein** Auge.
He had only **one** eye.

When used without a noun, it is inflected like an adjective:

Einer ist hier.
One (person) is here.

Eines weiß ich.
I know **one** (thing).

Ich habe nur den **einen** gesehen.
I have seen only that **one** (person).

The Ordinals: Up to twenty the ordinals are formed **from the cardinals by adding -t**: **viert** (4th), **zehnt** (10th), **achzent** (18th); from twenty on they are formed by adding **-st**: **zwanzigst** (20th), **einundzwanzigst** (21st), **hundertst** (100th).

Exceptions:

erst, **dritt**, **siebt** and **siebert**, **acht**: 1st 3rd 7th 8th

The ordinals are used only after the definite article or some pronominal modifier and are inflected like adjectives. Thus we never have: **zweit**, **dritt**, **zwanzigst**, but **der** (die, das) **zweite**, **dritte**, **zwanzigste**:

sein **erster** Sohn
his **first** son

ihr **viertes** Kind
her **fourth** child

den **einundzwanzigsten** (21. or 21st) Januar
the **twenty-first** (21st) of January

Fractions are formed by means of the suffix **-el**, **-stel**, as follows: **das Drittel**(one-third), **Viertel**,(one-fourth) **Achtel**, (one-eighth) **Zwanzigstel** (one-twentieth), **Hundertstel** (one one-hundredth). **Half** as an adjective is **halb**, as a noun **die Hälfte**: ein halbes Pfund (half a pound); die Hälfte des Apfels, (The half of the apple). Also note the forms: **anderthalb** (one and a half), **drittehalb** (two and a half), **viertehalb** (three and a half), etc.

The ordinal adverbs **erstens** (firstly), **zweitens** (secondly), **drittens** (thirdly), etc. are derived from the ordinals by means of the suffix **-ens** (-ly).

From the cardinals are derived the adverbs **einmal** (once), **zweimal** (twice), etc. by means of the suffix **-mal** (-ce, times), and four kinds of adjectives by means of the following suffixes: **-fach** (-fold), **-erlei** (kinds of ...), **-malig**, **-fältig**.

zweifach, **dreifach**, **zehnfach**
twofold, threefold, tenfold

zweierlei, **dreierlei**
two kinds of, three kinds of

einmalig, **zweimalig**;
single, repeated (done twice)

das einmalige Erscheinen
the one (single) appearance

des Geistes
of the ghost

zweifältig
twofold

Rules pertaining to numerals

Commas, not periods, indicate decimals:

18.45 (English) = **18,45** (German)

Where English inserts a comma, German uses a space:

14,846 (English) = **14 846** (German)

Note: German Assistant may classify as general quantifiers words such as **all**, **some**, **first**, and **last**, which carry a counting or ordering meaning. For more information regarding these words, see also Article, Pronoun, and Quantifier Inflections, Adjective Declension

Adverbs

Adverbs

Time

When

Adverbs

In German, the distinction between an adjective and an adverb is very slight. That is, the same word or phrase can be either an adjective or an adverb, depending on its function in the sentence. However, **adverbs** are never declined.

Die **schöne** Blume ist da.
The **pretty** flower is there.

Sie singt **schön**.
She sings **beautifully**.

The function of an **adverb** in a sentence is to modify (describe) a verb, adjective, or another adverb. An **adverb** can consist of a single word or an entire phrase.

Er kam **spät**.
He came **late**.

Er ist **sehr** jung.
He is **very** young.

Er liest **sehr** langsam.
He reads **very** slowly.

Sie kam **am Morgen**.
She came **in the morning**.

Sie kam **mit John**.
She came **with John**.

Adverbs appear in the sentence in the order of TIME, MANNER, and PLACE. (**Adverbs** of TIME answer the question: "WHEN did the action occur?". **Adverbs** of MANNER answer "HOW did it occur?". And **adverbs** of PLACE answer "WHERE did it occur?".)

Er kam **spät** und **allein nach Hause**.
He came **home late** and **alone**.

Sie kam **gestern Morgen mit John zu dem Park**.
She came **yesterday morning with John to the park**.

Exceptions to the word-order rule for adverbs are made for emphasis or stylistic purposes.

Adverbs are compared like predicate adjectives; the superlative uses only the **am... -en** form (never **-est**):

Karl läuft **schneller**.
Carl runs **faster**.

Paul läuft **am schnellsten**.
Paul runs **the fastest**.

Gern(e) (**willingly, with pleasure**) is compared: **gern(e), lieber, am liebsten**.

Ich trinke Wasser **gern**, du trinkst **lieber** Milch, und er trinkt **am liebsten** Wein.
I **like to** drink water, you **prefer** milk, and he **likes to** drink wine **best**.

The adverb **bald** (**soon**) is compared: **bald, eher, am ehesten**. The absolute superlative adverb is formed by **aufs**: **aufs beste**, (**aufs freundlichste, aufs schönste**), **in the best** (**most friendly, most beautiful**) **way or fashion**.

See also:

Adjective Comparison

Time

Hours of the Day

7:00 AM (PM): sieben Uhr vormittags (nachmittags)

12:00 AM (PM): zwölf Uhr mittags (mitternachts)

12:30: halb eins

1:15: Viertel nach eins (ein Viertel [auf] zwei)

1:45: Viertel vor zwei (drei Viertel [auf] zwei)

2:20: zwanzig (Minuten) nach zwei

2:40: zwanzig (Minuten) vor drei 3:25: fünfundzwanzig nach drei; fünf (Minuten) vor halb (vier)

3:35: fünfundzwanzig vor vier; fünf (Minuten) nach halb vier

Railroad and business time is counted through from midnight to midnight: 0:00 (null Uhr, Mitternacht) to 24:00 (24 Uhr).

Expressions of time

heute morgen	this morning
heute abend	this evening
gestern morgen	yesterday morning
gestern abend	last night
morgen früh	tomorrow morning
morgen mittag	tomorrow noon
vorgestern	the day before yesterday
übermorgen	the day after tomorrow
vor acht Tagen	a week ago
vor einer Woche	a week ago
vor einem Monat	a month ago
vor einem Jahr	a year ago
heute in acht Tagen	a week from today
in Einer Woche	a week from today
jeden Tag	every day
alle zwei Tage	every other day
jeden dritten Tag	every third day
einmal am Tage	once a day
einmal die Woche (den Monat, das Jahr) OR einmal in der Woche etc.	once a week (a month, a year)
morgens = am Morgen	in the morning
tags = am Tage	by day
vormittags = am Vormittag	in the (late) morning
abends = am Abend	in the evening
mittags = am Mittag	at noon
nachts = in der Nacht	at night
nachmittags = am Nachmittag	in the afternoon
Sonntags = am Sonntag	on Sunday

When

The word **when** has many translations in German and depends very much on context. The choices are not interchangeable. Please refer to the following rules:

- **Als** is used to refer to any action in the past:

Als ich jung war, spielte ich gern.

When I was young, I liked to play.

Er fuhr weg, **als** ich ankam.

He drove away **when** I arrived.

Ich sah ihn bei der Bibliothek, **als** ich da war, letzten Sonntag.

I saw him in the library, **when** I was there last Sunday.

- **Wenn** is used for recurring future actions, or a one-time desire that has not yet occurred:

Ich gehe zum Zahnarzt, **wenn** meine Zähne müssen geputzt werden.

I go to the dentist **when** my teeth need to be cleaned.

Ich werde es kaufen, **wenn** ich das Geld bekomme.

I will buy it **when** I get the money.

- Wenn is also used with the subjunctive, to introduce an action that has not occurred and may not ever occur:

Wenn ich die Lotterie gewinne, werde ich aufhören zu arbeiten.

When (if) I win the lottery, I will quit working.

See also:

Subjunctive II

- **Wann** is used with a future action occurring at a definite, or known, time:

Ich werde ihn abholen, **wann** er ankommt.

I will pick him up **when** he arrives.

Wann sie hier ist, können wir das besprechen.

When she is here, we can discuss that.

- **Wann** is also used commonly to ask questions about **when** something will occur, since the answer is expected to be a definite time.

Wissen Sie, **wann** die Feier anfängt?

Do you know **when** the celebration begins?

Prepositions

Prepositions

Idiomatic Use of Prepositions

Supplement to Prepositions

Prepositions

Most prepositions requiring the **genitive** are of substantive nature in English or in German: **anstatt** = **an der Stätte** (Stelle) **von**, **instead of**; **diesseits** = **auf dieser Seite von**, **on this side of**. Only **während** is a present participle.

The most common prepositions requiring the genitive are:

anstatt (statt)	instead of
außerhalb	outside of
innerhalb	inside of
oberhalb	above
unterhalb	below
um...willen	for the sake of
diesseits	on this side of
trotz	in spite of
während	during
wegen	on account of
jenseits	on the other side of

The **dative** is used with prepositions to express **rest** or **motion away from**. **Nach** and **zu** take the dative in contradiction to this rule.

Rest

bei	at, near, with
mit	with

Motion away from

aus	from, out of
von	of, from
seit	since (of time)
nach	after, to, according to
zu	to

The **accusative** is used with prepositions to express **all other motions**, and with the preposition **ohne**.

Motion toward

gegen	against
wider	against
für	for

Motion through and around

ohne	without
durch	through
um	around

A number of prepositions may take either the dative or accusative, depending on whether they express **rest** or **motion toward**:

Ich bin **in dem Zimmer**. (rest)

I am **in the room**.

Ich gehe **in das Zimmer**. (motion)

I'm going **in(to)** the room.

an	at, to
auf	on, upon
hinter	behind
unter	under, below
zwischen	between
in	in, into
neben	beside, next to
über	over, above, across
vor	before

Idiomatic Use of Prepositions

Idiomatic use of prepositions:

an

am Morgen, am Mittag
in the morning, at noon

am Abend
in the evening

denken **an** + accusative
think of

schreiben **an** + accusative
write to

auf

auf deutsch, auf englisch
in German, in English

auf einmal
all at once, suddenly

auf Reisen sein
be traveling

auf Wiedersehen
good-bye, au revoir

auf dem Land sein
be in the countryside

sich freuen **auf** + accusative
look forward to

bei

bei dem Onkel
at uncle's (house)

bei mir
with me, at my house

nach

fragen nach + dative
inquire about, ask for

reisen nach
travel to

nach Hause
towards home

Ich gehe nach Hause.
I'm going home.

um

bitten um + accusative; einen um
ask for, beg a person's pardon

Entschuldigung bitten
to ask for forgiveness, pardon

über

lachen über + accusative

laugh at

sprechen über + accusative (or von + dative)

speak about

vor

sich fürchten vor + dative

be afraid of

zu

zu Hause

at home

Ich bin zu Hause.

I am at home.

Or literally: I feel at home.

Supplement to Prepositions

Prepositions governing the dative:

aus	from, out of	nach	after, according to
bei	at, near, with	seit	since
mit	with	von	from
zu	to		

Prepositions governing the accusative:

durch	through	gegen	against
für	for	ohne	without
um	around	wider	against

Prepositions governing the dative answering the question **wo** (where, in which place); and the accusative answering the question **wohin** (where, whither, to which place):

an	at, to	in	in
auf	on upon	neben	beside
hinter	behind	unter	under, below
über	above, over	vor	before
zwischen	between		

These prepositions can be memorized as follows:

Über, unter, vor und zwischen, An auf, hinter, neben, in Nehmen Dativ nach dem "Wo?"

See also:

Prepositions

General

Word Order

Vocabulary Difficulties

Conjunctions

Non-Inflecting

Article, Pronoun, and Quantifier Inflections

Word Order

Normal word order is used in principal clauses. In this order the subject comes first, the personal or conjugated verb second, the modifiers of the verb last:

Er geht heute nicht in die Stadt.
He is not going downtown today.

In principal clauses with compound tenses, the past participle and the infinitive come last:

Ich bin im Theater gewesen.
I was at the theater.

Er wird heute dort sein.
He will be there today.

The double infinitive always comes at the end:

Er hatte es nicht tun wollen.
He had not wanted to do it.

Inverted order is used when the sentence does not begin with the subject, i.e. when it begins with:

- an adjective:

Hungrig tritt er ins Gastzimmer.
Hungrily he walked into the lounge.

- an adverb or adverbial expression:

Nach einer halben Stunde kam er heraus.
After half an hour he came out.

Dort bleibt er stehen.
There he remains standing.

- the object

Zwei Mark habe ich nicht.
I don't have two marks.

- a clause:

Wenn Sie zu meinem Nachbar gehen, gebe ich Ihnen den Taler.
If you go to my neighbor, I will give you the dollar.

- a quotation:

"Ich danke Ihnen," sagte der Gast.
"I thank you," said the guest.

- Inverted order is also used in questions, as in English:

Kommt er heute?
Is he coming today?

General Rule: In an independent statement the conjugated verb is always the second element.

Dependent clauses use dependent word order. Dependent clauses occur after:

- subordinate conjunctions
- interrogatives in indirect questions
- relative pronouns.

In Dependent word order the conjugated verb comes at the end of the clause:

Er ging, nachdem ich zurückgekommen war.
He went after I had come back.

In double infinitive constructions, the verb immediately precedes the double infinitive:

Ich weiß, daß er es hat tun wollen.
I know that he wanted to do it.

Adverbs:

Adverbs generally appear in the sentence in the order of **TIME, MANNER, PLACE**. (Adverbs of **TIME** answer the question **WHEN** did the action occur. Adverbs of **MANNER** answer **HOW** did it occur. And adverbs of **PLACE** answer **WHERE** did it occur.)

Er geht **heute in die Stadt**.
He is going **downtown today**.

Wir gehen **morgen zusammen in die Stadt**.
We will go **downtown together tomorrow**.

When more than one adverb of the same type is used, the more general adverb precedes the more specific:

Er kommt **jeden Tag um acht Uhr**.
He comes **at eight o'clock every day**.

Er ist **in die Stadt zum Theater gefahren**.
He **drove downtown (to go) to the theater**.

Direct and Indirect Objects:

The **indirect object** precedes the **direct object** unless it is a personal pronoun.

Er schreibt **der Mutter** einen Brief.
He is writing **his mother** a letter.

Er schreibt **ihr** einen Brief.
He is writing **her** a letter.

But if the **direct object** is a personal pronoun, it precedes the **indirect object**:

Er schreibt **ihn** der Mutter.
He is writing **it** to his mother.

Er schreibt **ihn** ihr.
He is writing **it** to her.

Participial constructions

Attributive adjectives and participles precede the noun with all its modifiers. English places the latter after the noun, or uses one or several relative clauses:

der in seinem Sprechzimmer **sitzende** Professor
the professor who is (was) **sitting** in his office

die aus Vollmond, Temperatur usw. **berechnete** Formel
the formula which has (had) been **computed** from full moon, temperature, etc.

The present participle of the passive voice is rendered in English by a relative clause, or a phrase:

der schwer zu ergreifende Irre
the insane person, who can (could) only be seized with difficulty

bleiben stay = remain

Er **blieb** bei mir.
He **stayed** with me. (at my house)

• **bitten** and **fragen**:

bitten, bat, gebeten **request**, **ask a favor**, **beg**
Ich **bitte** dich!
I **beg** you!

um etwas **bitten request** something;
Ich **bitte** um Hilfe.
I **am requesting** help.

fragen **ask** (a question)
Sie **fragte** der Lehrerin, ob sie es machen könnte.
She **asked** the teacher if she could do it.

• **bitten**, **bieten**, and **beten**:

bitten (see above);

bieten, bot, geboten **offer**, **bid**;
Ich **bot** mein Auto.
I **offered** my car.

beten **pray**, **say a prayer**
Wir **beten** für Friede.
We **pray** for peace.

• **lieben** and **gleichen**:

lieben = gern(e) haben, mögen:
Er **liebt** seine Patienten.
He **loves** his patients.

gleichen, glich, geglichen [(dat.) **resemble**, **be like**]:
Der Sohn **gleicht** seiner Mutter.
The son **resembles** his mother.

• **fühlen** and **sich fühlen**

fühlen **feel**, **perceive**
Er **fühlt**, daß er verloren ist.
He **feels** that he is lost.

sich fühlen **feel**, literally
Er **fühlt sich** sicher.
He **feels** safe.

• **begegnen** and **treffen**:

begegnen (**meet**), an intransitive verb of motion requiring the dative (the objects following it are indirect objects):

Ich **begegnete** ihm, ihr, ihnen.
I **met** him, her, them.

It is frequently used impersonally:

OR Es ist mir etwas Schlimmes **begegnet**
Etwas Schlimmes ist mir **begegnet**.
Something bad **happened** to me.

treffen, traf, getroffen **hit**, **meet**; transitive:
Ich **traf** sie bei der Universität.
I **met** her at the university.

• **werden** and **bekommen**:

werden, wurde, geworden is an auxiliary verb meaning **shall**, **will**; as well as an independent verb meaning become, grow.

Sie **wird** fahren.

She **will** drive.

Ich **werde** älter.

I **am becoming** older.

bekommen, bekam, bekommen receive, get

Er **bekommt** ein Steak.

He **is getting** a steak.

• **lernen, erfahren, and studieren:**

lernen learn; study (a lesson)

Er **hat** seine Aufgabe nicht **gelernt**.

He **has** not **learned** his lesson.

Er **lernt** für seine Prüfung.

He **is studying** for his test.

erfahren, erfuhr, erfahren learn (by experience), find out

Er **hat** viel in seinem Leben **erfahren**.

He **has experienced** much in his life.

Er **hat** es nicht **erfahren können**.

He **was** not (**has not been**) **able to find out** about it.

studieren to study a topic at the university

Er **studiert** Soziologie.

He **is studying** sociology.

Conjunctions

Conjunctions are connective words which link two words, clauses, or sentences.

Coordinating conjunctions do not influence word order:

Alexander kam in die Stadt, **und** die Bewohner begrüßten ihn.
Alexander came to the city, **and** the inhabitants greeted him.

Coordinating conjunctions are:

und	and
oder	or
denn	for
aber	but, however
weder...noch	neither...nor
entweder... oder	either...or
sondern	but, however
allein	but, however

Sondern is used to replace emphatically a preceding negative statement. It can often be translated in English as **but, rather**:

Alexander wollte nicht ihr Land, **sondern** ihre Sitten kennenlernen.
Alexander did not want to get to know their country, **but (rather)** their customs.

Compare:

Er wollte ihr Land, **aber auch** ihre Sitten kennenlernen.
He wanted to get to know their country, **but also** their customs.

Subordinating conjunctions cause dependent word order, i.e. the finite or the inflected part of the verb stands at the end of the clause.

Er ging fort, **nachdem** ich zurückgekommen war.
or Nachdem ich zurückgekommen war, ging er fort. (Note inversion.)
He left, **after** I came back.

The most common subordinating conjunctions are:

als	when, as	ehe	before
während	while	bevor	before
nachdem	after (temporal or to denote contrast)	weil	because (causal)
bis	until, till	obwohl	although
da	since (causal)	obgleich	although
wenn	if, when	obschon	although
damit	in order that	daß	that

Indirect questions are introduced by:

wann	when	wie	how
woher	whence, where from	warum	why
wieviel	how much	wohin	whither, where to
ob	whether	wo	where

Als refers to a single event in the past:

Als er kam, ging ich.
When he came, I left.

Wenn introduces a conditional (if) clause or a temporal (whenever) clause:

Wenn er kommt, gehe ich.
If he comes, I shall leave.

Wenn es regnete, kam er nicht.
Whenever it rained, he did not come.

Wann (when, at what time) is an interrogative adverb:

Wann kommen Sie?
When are you coming?

Ich weiß nicht, **wann** ich kommen kann.
I do not know **when** I can come.

Non-Inflecting

The following parts of speech have no inflectional models:

- Conjunction
- Intensifier
- Non-Grammatical
- Note
- Preposition
- Prefix
- Slot Phrase
- Suffix
- Suffix 1
- Title

Article, Pronoun, and Quantifier Inflections

Both articles and pronouns have inflections for the following forms:

- Masculine
- Feminine
- Neuter

Pronouns add **plural**.

Quantifiers add:

- Masculine Strong
- Feminine Strong
- Neuter Strong
- Plural Strong

See the following for more specific information:

Pronouns

Articles

Numerals

Adjective Declension

Glossary of Terms

conjunction

conjunction

A word functioning as a connector between words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. For example: [and](#), [because](#), [but](#), [however](#).

The German simple present tense also expresses the English present progressive (i.e., I am learning) and emphatic (i.e., I do learn) tenses. These two compound forms are not found in German.

The imperfect forms of these verbs are used in conversation and are not restricted to narrative use as with other verbs.

In German, the Present Tense is used with an adverb of future time instead of the Future Tense more frequently than in English:

Ich **treffe** ihn morgen.

I **am meeting** him tomorrow.

Übermorgen **fahren** wir nach San Diego.

We **are driving** to San Diego the day after tomorrow.

Sterben (die), werfen (throw), and a few other strong verbs have irregular imperfect subjunctive forms: ich stürbe, ich würfe.

The Past Perfect Subjunctive (pluperfect subjunctive) may also be used for indirect discourse in this example.

The Perfect Subjunctive may also be used for indirect discourse.

Case is most often indicated by the adjective or article preceding the noun, and less often by the ending of the noun itself.

der Herr (the gentleman) is declined:
Singular: der Herr, des (dem, den) Herrn;
Plural: die (der, den, die) Herren.

die and das are also considered der words.

as...as... translates as "so...wie..."

The adjective endings are in addition to endings for either comparative or superlative forms.

In German, whenever another part of speech is converted to a noun, it is capitalized and given the neuter article.

The hour (here **vier**) is commonly omitted in speech, since it is usually known.

When you can substitute either **whenever** or **if** for **when**, as in the above examples, **Wenn** is the best translation.

am is a contraction of **an** + **dem** (dative form of **der**)

