

Adjektivdeklination

Time: 00:13

Instructor: Guten Tag! Wir haben begonnen die Adjektivdeklination auf Deutsch zu lernen. We have begun to learn the adjective endings in German. Und heute möchten wir die Adjektivdeklination datei lernen. Wir machen heute eine tabelle, eine ganz umfangreiche tabelle und mit dieser Tabelle können Sie die Adjektivdeklination lernen. So today's class is basically going to be, we are going to try and make a comprehensive table of adjective endings which will give an overview of most of the cases, most of the instances of adjective endings in German. Just as a brief introduction again, adjectives are not inflected in the English language. When we speak English, we realise that when we say, when we use an adjective such as good for a person, whether the person is a masculine, feminine or whether we use the adjective good for an object, neuter, or a concept that is abstract. It doesn't make a difference. It is always a good boy, a good girl, a good idea or good food etc. So it doesn't change according to gender, it doesn't change according to the case whether the good boy is the subjective or whether I see the good boy where the good boy is the object, in the same tense, it does not make a difference. The good, the adjective good remains as it is, so it is not inflected. One of the reasons perhaps is that the gender distinction in English is quite obvious, and we have seen that the gender distinction is not that obvious. When we learn new nouns in German, we have to learn the new noun along with its article, and in fact along with its plural. Since genders are not so obvious in German, adjectives get inflected when they are used okay. It is also, I mean one of the things I always point out while doing this is if you look at many Indian languages, at least the two Indian languages that I speak quite well, Marathi and Hindi for example, there also you will find that the adjectives are inflected. In Hindi for example if I use the word 'achchha', for "good", the 'achchha' will change its ending in several instances. For example for just plain 'ladka', it would be 'achchha ladka', for 'ladki' it would be 'achchhi ladki', if it's plural 'ladke', it will be 'achche ladke' but if it is feminine plural 'ladkiyaan', it will be 'achchhi ladkiyaan' and so on and so forth. And even in terms of the case, it will change. 'Achchha ladka school jata hai' or 'school nhi jata hai' whatever. 'Maine achchhe ladke ko kitaab bhet di'. So the 'achchha ladka' becomes dative, it becomes 'achchhe ladke ko'. Okay so the inflection of the adjective, the adjective ending, adjective declension is not a very unusual phenomenon if we look at our own languages, and we find this in German as well. And so we have seen for example, in the previous classes we have seen, ich suche, zum Beispiel ein elegantes Restaurant; das Restaurant, it's neuter. Wir suchen ein elegantes Restaurant oder ein gutes Hotel; das Hotel so gutes Hotel.

[ein elegantes Restaurant]

[ein gutes Hotel]

But if it is 'the old man' is looking for a good restaurant or looking for something. The old man in German is der alte Mann. but if it is 'an old man', ein alter Mann.

[the old man~ der alte Mann]

[an old man~ ein alter Man]

Time: 6:20

So ein gutes Hotel, ein elegantes Restaurant, ein alter Mann, der alte Mann. so there are several ways in which adjectives are inflected and while we saw some of the examples in the exercises that we did yesterday, in the text that we read in the previous class. Today we'll only make for ourselves a table which will kind of give us a snapshot of adjective endings in the German language. So the adjective endings depend primarily on three factors:

one is of course the gender of the noun, German language has 3 genders masculine, feminine, neuter.

The other factor is whether the noun concerned is a definite one, it has a definite article or an indefinite article, the old man or an old man, the good restaurant or a good restaurant, specific thing or unspecific.

Or whether the noun has an article at all. Okay. old people for example, or young people, here you have only the adjective, junge Leute, alte Leute. We have only adjectives without any articles. So it depends on the gender, it depends on the definite, indefinite, you can also have possessive article for example, my favourite book, or my favourite restaurant or my expensive smartphone ok. So you can have a possessive article or the possessive pronoun also as an article. In German we also have the negative article, kein that we have learnt. So to negate nouns, we use the negative article kein. So it depends on all these factors: gender, definite/indefinite, possessive, no article, negative article. It also depends upon the number, whether it is singular or plural. Okay so old man and old men in English 'old' is the same but in German it will be different, eg. ein alter Mann is an old man but alte Männer, with an 'e' ending, would be old men. So it depends on gender, number, definite/indefinite, possessive, negative- all these factors. So we will try and make a table or a series of tables which will give us an overview of most of these factors on which the adjective endings depend okay.

So we can start with the definite article, definite articles in German are masculine is der, feminine is die and neuter is das.

Okay and then we take simple nouns, so we will continue with the old man.

Der alte Mann, die alte Frau and we can't take das alte Kind so das kleine Kind. okay so we will take these as our basic examples of nouns. Der alte Mann, die alte Frau, das kleine Kind. what you have to remember is that this particular scheme of adjective endings will apply to all masculine nouns, whatever applies to der alte Mann, applies to all masculine nouns so whatever applies to die alte Frau applies to all feminine nouns and whatever applies to das kleine Kind applies to all neuter nouns.

[m- der alte Mann]

[f- die alte Frau]

[n- das kleine Kind]

Okay so. Let us begin this exercise and try and finish it in today's session. So we will make the first table with the definite articles. Masculine, feminine and neuter. And we will separate them according to cases. So we have the nominative case, accusative case and the dative case. There is also a fourth case which we have not done which is the genitive case, Genetiv, der Genetiv oder Possessiv.

Time: 12:42

So we will take the form of that as well in the table and learn it later. So when I say and we say masculine nominative, der; masculine accusative, den; masculine dative, dem; masculine genitive, des. Der alte Mann, den alten Mann, dem alten Mann and des alten Mannes. Des alten Mannes basically has the meaning something like of the old man, as I said it is a possessive case, we have not covered it yet so you can leave it there and we'll come to it whenever we do the genitive or the possessive case later on. This is what the adjective endings look like for the masculine singular definite article. Der alte Mann, den alten Mann, dem alten Mann, des alten Mannes. What this means is that we have to use the phrase 'the old man', when this comes in a German sentence as a nominative, then we say der alte Mann. Der alte Mann sucht ein gutes Restaurant. Or der alte Mann braucht Hilfe, means help. Den alten Mann, if the phrase 'the old man' appears in a sentence as an accusative object; for example, ich höre, I can hear, I hear the old man, I see the old man, it's the direct object in the sentence. Then ich höre den alten Mann. ich sehe den alten Mann. suppose I show the old man a good restaurant, then the old man here is the dative object. I show the old man a good restaurant, then you have the old man coming as a dative object, then to show zeigen. Ich zeige dem alten Mann ein gutes Restaurant. So what sentence would be? for the verb used is zeigen to show, the sentence we made was ich zeige dem alten Mann ein gutes Restaurant.

[zeige~to show]

[ich zeige dem alten Mann ein gutes Restaurant]

We have a standard NDA sentence here: Nominative, Dative, Accusative. Ich is the subject, nominative. Zeige is the verb. Ich zeige was? Ein gutes Restaurant is the accusative. Ich zeige wem ein gutes Restaurant? Dem alten Mann, this is our dative object.

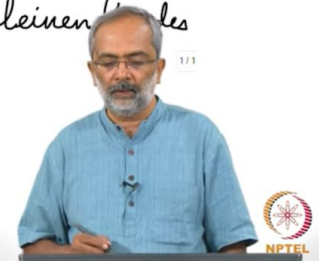
This is what the table means. Wherever a masculine singular noun with a definite article appears in a sentence in the dative case, this is the form that will tell you what the adjective ending will be. Dem alten Mann. okay des alten Mannes, that we will do later.

Similarly if you have nominative feminine singular die. Die alte Frau. feminine singular accusative, is there a change in the article? There is no change in the article so it remains die alte Frau and feminine singular becomes in the dative case, der. Der alten Frau. and in the genitive case, feminine singular remains der alten Frau. Ok this we can come back to later. So die alte Frau, die alte Frau, der alten Frau, der alten Frau. Again what this means is if the old woman, the phrase 'the old woman', is appearing in a sentence and the old woman is a subject or nominative, we use the old woman in German, I mean the phrase becomes die alte Frau. if die alte Frau is the accusative object, it's die alte Frau; but in our example, eg. if I were to show instead of the old man, the old woman a good restaurant. Ich zeige der alten Frau ein gutes Restaurant. This is what it means, this is what the table basically tells us. That if a feminine noun, singular feminine in the dative case, the indirect object, then we have here der alten Frau.

Time: 19:09

Similarly neuter gender singular nominative is das kleine Kind. das kleine Kind, it doesn't change, the neuter gender in the accusative case does not change das remains das. And like the masculine neuter also becomes in the dative case, dem kleinen Kind and des kleinen Kindes. I think the idea should be clear now, what exactly our table is going to tell us. This is the first basic table, masculine, feminine, neuter three nouns with their respective adjectives, in the four cases, with the definite article.

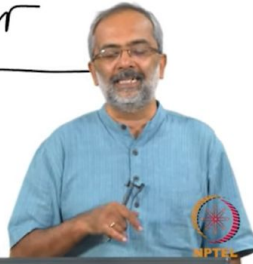
| | m | f | n |
|-----|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| (N) | der alte Mann | die alte Frau | das kleine Kind |
| (A) | den alten Mann | die alte Frau | das kleine Kind |
| (D) | dem <u>alten</u> Mann | der <u>alten</u> Frau | dem kleinen Kind |
| G | des alten Mannes | der alten Frau | des kleinen Kindes |



Now we all know, we should know by now definitely, gender distinction and the separate articles for the different genders, this holds good only in the singular. In the plural, all nouns, irrespective of their gender, have a common article which is die. We will remove this example from here so the table can continue. So whatever we do in the plural, again we will need the four cases, but we can take one common example for all three.

Let's take die alte Frau and we have nominative, accusative, dative and genitive, and this will apply to all nouns irrespective of gender. So die alten Frauen, die alten Frauen, den alten Frauen and der alten Frauen. Again to reiterate what this table basically means is that if feminine noun or any noun, not only feminine for example for Mann, it would be die alten Männer, die alten Männer. Dativ plural, den alten Männern, with an additional n. And der alten Männer. Okay. similarly for Kind, it would be die kleinen Kinder, die kleinen Kinder, den kleinen Kindern (an additional n at the end of dative plural) and der kleinen Kinder. So if these nouns that you have seen here, if they were to appear in a sentence in the plural, then if nominative this is what we use, for accusative this is the form, for dative this form and genitive this one. So as you can see there is a common "en" or "n" ending for all of them. So this is our table for the definite article, der, die, das; Mann, Frau, Kind; and die for all die Frauen, die Männer, die Kinder. For all three together. Okay.

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| N | die alten Frauen/Männer |
| A | die alten Frauen/Männer |
| D | den alten Frauen/Männern |
| G | der alten Frauen/Männer |



Time: 23:46

I hope by now, ich hoffe Sie verstehen die Adjektivdeklination, was das ist. Das ist nämlich dass man die Adjektive in der deutschen Sprache haben, jedes mal eine andere Endung haben und diese Adjektivendung ist abhängig von (dependent on) vielen Faktoren.

[abhängig von~depends on]

Zum Beispiel bestimmt oder unbestimmt die Zahl, singular oder plural, Genus, maskulin, neutrum oder feminin und so weiter. Also es ist am besten wenn wir die Adjektivendungen oder tabelle einfach auswendig lerne okay. What I am trying to say is that after learning German as a foreign language, we don't really get too much opportunity to speak German everyday and one of the things we need to do with certain grammatical elements is to learn things by heart. And one of the things that I found very, very useful when we learnt German way back in school, we were asked to learn quite a few things by heart, as those who have remembered your school days will know. So we learnt the entire adjective declension table by heart. I mean we went home and recited (**repeating the table**).

Once this gets fixed in our minds, then it is useful in the examinations so please do learn this table by heart, it's quite useful. Again this is, we can see that in spoken German, in colloquial everyday exchanges, conversations- people are not very strict about observing each and every grammar rule. So you might find several instances where adjective endings might not exactly correspond with this table but that is the way it happens, that's how the language is used, language varies in conversation quite a bit. But with adjective endings, we have to learn these.

This is the definite article table which means, since I'm being so specific about it, it obviously means that there is also an indefinite article table which we will do now.

Time: 27:43

Indefinite articles we have: ein alter Mann, eine alte Frau und we have ein kleines Kind. standard indefinite articles examples we make the same table. We have masculine, we have to draw the table quickly, feminine and neuter and we have the four cases, nominative, accusative, dative and genitive. Maskulin, Feminin und Neutrum.

Maskulin nominativ: ein alter Mann, accusative we have einen alter will change to alten Mann, dative is einem alten Mann and this is eines alten Mannes. Feminine nominative eine alte Frau, accusative ist gleiche eine alte Frau, dative feminine einer (die der, eine einer) alten Frau und genitiv bleibt auch einer alten Frau. Neutrum nominative, ein kleines Kind, bleibt es gleiche auch in Akkusativ ein kleines Kind, einem kleinen Kind, und eines kleinen Kindes.

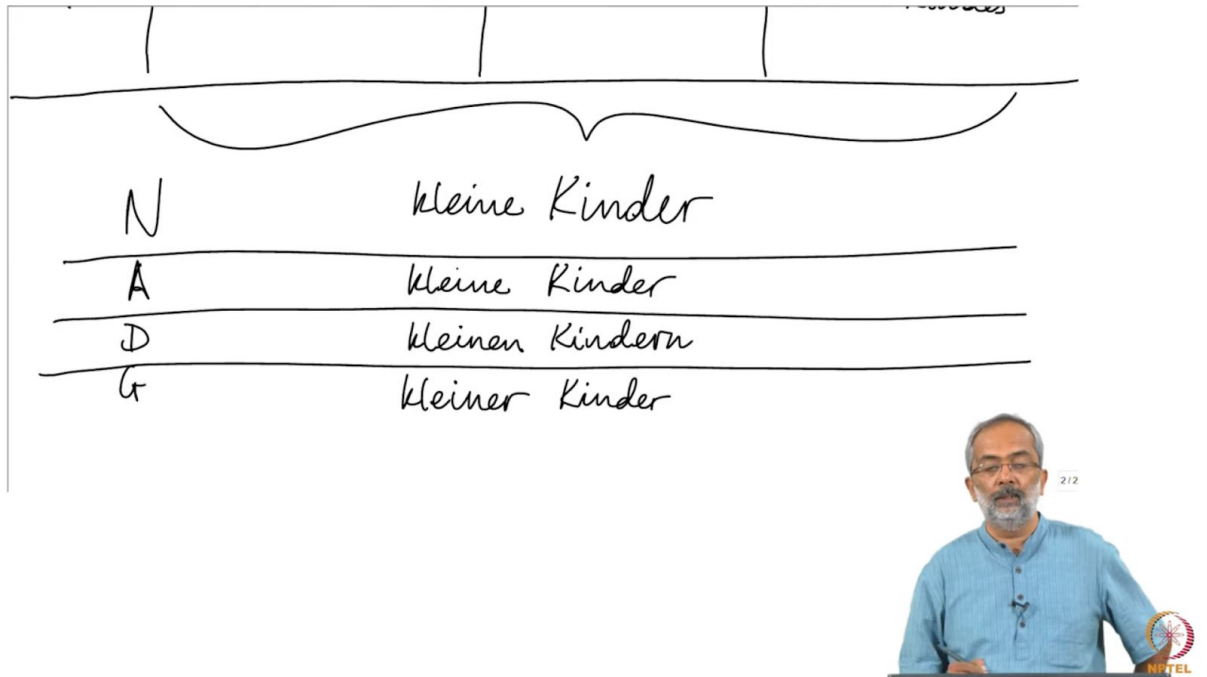
| | m | f | n |
|---|--------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| N | ein alter Mann | eine alte Frau | ein kleines Kind |
| A | einen alten Mann | eine alte Frau | ein kleines Kind |
| D | einem alten Mann | einer alten Frau | einem kleinen Kind |
| G | eines alten Mannes | einer alten Frau | eines kleinen Kindes |



There are many things that you cannot reason out in language but if one were to reason out a few things such as for example, as far as definite articles go die der das, they have a clear function of showing the distinction between the gender so you will find that in the beginning in the first case, all endings are common because the difference is being shown by the definite article der die das. When we come to indefinite article we find that eine alte Frau is of course separate; it is clear, but ein Mann and ein Kind. Mann and Kind have the same indefinite article. Ein Mann, ein Kind. This is where the adjective takes over the function of showing the distinction in the gender. Ein alter mann, ein kleines Kind and if one were to attempt an explanation. Once it becomes einen, there is only one situation where it becomes einen, indefinite masculine singular accusative case; so it doesn't matter. Okay. this the table for indefinite singular (**reciting the table**). Wir gut wenn Sie diese Tabelle wie gesagt auswendig lernen würden.

Time: 33:30

Indefinite article *ein* only appears in the singular, it cannot have a plural so it's plural actually is without article. If you have an old woman, you cannot have an old women. You just have old women, or a small child and small children,=. In the plural, the article will drop out. So indefinite singular *ein*, *ein*, *eine*. In the plural they are without articles so we'll take one example that is *kleine Kinder*. The four cases, N, A, D and G. wir haben hier nominativ plural *kleine Kinder* oder *alte Männer* oder *alte Frauen*. *Kleine Kinder* accusative bleibt *kleine Kinder*, *dativ plural n plus n*, *kleinen Kindern* oder *alten Männern* oder *alten Frauen*. Genitive *kleiner Kinder*.



| | |
|---|------------------------|
| N | <i>kleine Kinder</i> |
| A | <i>kleine Kinder</i> |
| D | <i>kleinen Kindern</i> |
| G | <i>kleiner Kinder</i> |

So we have now our four basic components of the table, the adjective declension table, the first one we did was definite article singular masculine feminine neuter, *der die das*. Definite article plural, *die*. Then we moved on indefinite article singular, *ein eine ein*. And we said that the indefinite article in the plural is without article, *ohne Artikel*. So this is our basic table. We will quickly look at other instances, as we said the adjective declension, *die Adjektivdeklination ist abhängig von*, we did that phrase today *abhängig von*, depends on vielen Faktoren also wir können *ein kleines Kind* haben oder auch *mein kleines Kind* haben okay, oder *meine kleinen Kinder*, *meine alten Eltern* etc. so *mein/dein/sein/ihr/Ihr/unser/euer* these are our possessive articles plus we also have *kein* as our negative article. All of these im Singular wie *ein/eine/ein*.

[mein/dein/sein/ihr/Ihr/unser/euer+kein--im Singular= ein/eine/ein]

That means if the noun is singular then all the possessive articles, and the negative article *kein*, will function as adjective declension in terms of *Adjektivdeklination* like the indefinite articles *ein*, *eine* and *ein*. So my old man will be *mein alter Mann*, my small child will be *mein kleines Kind* and so on and so forth. Und im Plural wie *die*.

Time: 38:45

So the possessive articles as well as the negative article kein, in the singular the adjective endings will be exactly like the indefinite articles in all cases; and in plural they will be like definite article in all cases. So for example in the plural indefinite is kleine Kinder, but if I want to say my small children, so small children is: let's take a small child or my small child. A small child we said in German was ein kleines Kind. My small child will also be mein kleines Kind. kleines for mine will be the same as kleines for ein. Ja. I am saying this because the small child, you must remember, is das kleine Kind. so mein will not work like das, it will work like ein. Ein kleines Kind, mein kleines Kind (in the singular). The plural of this would be, a small child will be small children, the small children with the definite article. Small children would be kleine Kinder. Die kleinen Kinder. So what happens to my small children? Meine, will it behave like indefinite? Or definite?. It will behave like definite, meine kleinen Kinder. That is what we said and we wrote. mein/dein/sein/ihr/Ihr/unser/euer- all these possessive articles, the adjective endings for them in the singular are like the indefinite article and in the plural they're like die, or the plural definite article. And the same is the case with the negative article kein, so for example ein interessantes Buch, kein interessantes Buch (singular, das ist Singular). Plural werde, interesting books ja, interessante Bücher aber keine (nicht interessante) interessanten Bücher. Okay that is what it means, the negative article kein, das ist Plural. Kein in the singular works like ein but keine in the plural works like die kleinen Kinder.

The video player shows a handwritten note on a whiteboard. At the top, it says 'kleiner Kinder'. Below that, a list of possessive articles is circled: 'mein/dein/sein/ihr/Ihr/unser/euer'. Below this, 'kein' is circled with an arrow pointing to 'im Singular = ein/eine/ein' and 'im Plural = die'. The video player interface includes a 'MORE VIDEOS' button, a progress bar at 42:47 / 48:27, and a 'YouTube' logo.

To wrap up this session of the basic forms of adjective declension, wir haben hier eins, zwei, drei, vier- vier Tabellen. Bitte lernen Sie das am auswendig, es ist am besten, it is the best if you learn it by heart then it's almost like knowing the phrase (**reciting the table**) and then applying it wherever but as I said this is more useful in terms of written German and spoken German of course many a time you are not very particular about a specific adjective ending and so on and so forth.

Time: 45:33

I think in spoken English we make grammatical mistakes very often, it doesn't hamper the effectiveness of the communication mostly, same is true for German as well. While learning a foreign language, we have to learn the grammar correctly so that is why we are doing this. This is the table for definite article singular, definite plural, indefinite singular, indefinite plural which is equivalent to no article. And then we have the possessive articles and the negative article kein, they behave in the singular like the indefinite articles and in the plural, the definite ones. This is a very basic view of die Adjektivdeklinaton and as we go along in our lectures ahead in our classes, we will have other instances. We can also have the singular without an article and I mean, I need fresh air! I can't have a class in this air-conditioned room. I need fresh air. "Fresh air", here the noun has only the adjective "fresh" ahead of it, it doesn't have an article. Die Luft, feminine. Die frische Luft or simple frische Luft, fresh air. Kaltes Wasser, das kalte Wasser aber kaltes Wasser. So you can also have nouns without any articles even in the singular. Those forms of adjective endings we will do later on. For now, these forms, please try and learn them as we go along. Keep this table handy and try and understand what this table means. And if you have any doubts about any of the things we said, you can get back to me in future sessions and we can just clarify okay. Gut also bis zum nächsten mal, auf wiedersehen.

[Keywords: German, Germany, Europe, Austria, Switzerland, learn German, German Grammar, Adjectives, Cases, Adjective declension, German phrases]