

Episode 043 – Grammar

Declension of adjectives in the dative case

Adjectives modify a living creature, an object, an action or a condition. They often provide more information about a noun or a pronoun.

When adjectives directly precede the noun they modify, then they follow a pattern of declension. That means that their endings change. The adjective is usually placed between the article and the noun.

There are three patterns of declension for adjectives depending on whether they are accompanied by a definite article, indefinite article or no article.

Declension of adjectives with a definite article in the dative

This chart shows you how an adjective changes its form when it follows a definite article.

Example:

*Professor Zweistein ist der große Mann neben **dem gelben** Sportwagen!*

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Plural
Dative	<i>dem gelben Sportwagen</i>	<i>der gelben Tür</i>	<i>dem gelben Auto</i>	<i>den gelben Sportwagen</i>

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

Declension of adjectives with an indefinite article in the dative

The declension following an indefinite article also applies to the possessive determiners (possessive adjectives) "mein", "dein", "ihr", etc. and the negation article "kein". Since the indefinite article has no plural, the adjective endings are shown here using the example of "kein".

Example:

*Er trägt einen Anzug mit **einem weißen** Hemd.*

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Plural
Dative	einem schwarzen Anzug	einer grünen Krawatte	einem weißen Hemd	keinen weißen Hemden

Declension of adjectives in the dative when there is no article

This pattern is common for the plural, but rare in the singular. You need it, for instance, after the ordinal numbers "two" and up. The adjective changes to reflect the endings of definite articles.

Example:

*Er trägt ein Hemd mit **schwarzen** Streifen.*

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Plural
Dative	dem Anzug schwarzem Anzug	der Krawatte schwarzer Krawatte	dem Hemd schwarzem Hemd	den Streifen schwarzen Streifen