

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

Episode 033 – Grammar

1. The declension of adjectives

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 come after the noun or pronoun, they don't change their basic form. That's often the case with verbs like "sein", "werden", "bleiben" and "finden".

Examples:

Helen ist verrückt.

Ich finde den Tag immer wieder schön.

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

	Article	Adjective	Noun	
<i>Hier ist</i>	der	neue	Computer.	
<i>Helen möchte</i>	den	perfekten	Wetterbericht	<i>machen.</i>

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The declension of adjectives depends on:

- the gender and number of the noun:

Singular	<i>Hier ist</i>	<i>der</i>	neue Computer.
Plural	<i>Hier sind</i>	<i>die</i>	neuen Computer.

- the case of the noun:

Nominative	<i>Hier ist</i>	<i>der</i>	neue Computer.
Accusative	<i>Ich möchte</i>	<i>den</i>	neuen Computer.

- the type of the article:

Definite article	<i>Hier ist</i>	der	neue Computer.
Indefinite article	<i>Hier ist</i>	ein	neuer Computer.

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2. Declension of adjectives in the nominative and accusative cases

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 preceded by a definite article

This chart shows you how an adjective's form changes when there is a definite article. The pattern has only the endings **-e** and **-en**.

Example:

Wollen Sie **die graue** oder **die schwarze** Tastatur?

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Plural
Nominative	der neue Drucker	die neue Tastatur	das neue Notebook	neuen Computer
Accusative	den neuen Drucker	die neue Tastatur	das neue Notebook	neuen Computer

Declension of adjectives preceded by an indefinite article

The declension following an indefinite article also applies to the possessive determiners (possessive adjectives) "mein", "dein", "ihr", etc. and the negation article "kein". In the singular in the nominative and accusative cases, the adjective changes to reflect the endings of definite articles. Since the indefinite article has no plural, the adjective endings are shown here using the example of "kein".

Example:

Hier ist **Ihr neuer** Arbeitsplatz.

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	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Plural
Nominative	ein neuer Drucker	eine neue Tastatur	ein neues Notebook	keine neuen Computer
Accusative	einen neuen Drucker	eine neue Tastatur	ein neues Notebook	keine neuen Computer

Declension of articles when there is no article

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

Example:

*Jeden Tag gibt es **drei warme Gerichte**.*

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Plural
Nominative	der Drucker neuer Drucker	die Tastatur neue Tastatur	das Notebook neues Notebook	die Computer neue Computer
Accusative	den Drucker neuen Drucker	die Tastatur neue Tastatur	das Notebook neues Notebook	die Computer neue Computer