

Episode 007 – Grammar

1. Verbs and the accusative (indefinite articles)

Most German sentences contain at least one conjugated verb and a component in the nominative that it modifies - a subject.

Many verbs, however, also require other components in the nominative - or components in the accusative, dative or genitive (objects). Direct objects (accusative) are the most common.

Nominative component	for instance with the verb "sein"
Accusative component	for instance with the verbs "haben", "möchten", "rauchen", "trinken"
Dative component	for instance with the verb "zuhören"
Genitive component	extremely rare

If the subject or object is a noun, you usually need an article for the singular. If you use an indefinite article, only the masculine form changes in the accusative.

The other forms stay the same. The noun itself doesn't change in the accusative.

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	ein	eine	ein
Accusative	einen	eine	ein

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Verb + nominative

Verb + accusative

Masculine

*Das **ist ein** Stadtplan.*

*Ich **brauche einen** Stadtplan.*

Feminine

*Das **ist eine** Zeitung.*

*Ich **brauche eine** Zeitung.*

Neuter

*Das **ist ein** Auto.*

*Ich **brauche ein** Auto.*

Plural

*Das **sind** Autos.*

*Ich **brauche** Autos.*

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Never leave a verb all alone!

Always learn verbs along with the case required by the components they modify!

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2. Adverbs of location

German adverbs provide more information about the nature of an action, process or condition. They refer to another word in the sentence (such as the verb) or to the sentence as a whole. Adverbs are not conjugated or inflected.

Adverbs of location are used to describe the place or direction of something. They answer the questions "Wo?" (where?) or "Wohin?" (where to?).

Examples:

*Wo bist du? – Ich bin **hier**.*

*Wo ist der Bahnhof? – Der Bahnhof ist **links**. (Der Bahnhof ist **rechts**.)*

*Wohin möchten Sie? – Zum Bahnhof. **Geradeaus**, bitte.*

More:

Besides place adverbs, there are also adverbs that refer to time, manner and cause or reason. They answer the questions "when?", "how?" and "why?".