



# GERMAN

der die das

# THE EASY WAY

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**by Paul G. Graves**

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# **GERMAN THE EASY WAY**

**by Paul G. Graves**

Instructor of German  
University of Colorado  
Boulder, Colorado



**BARRON'S EDUCATIONAL SERIES, INC.**  
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*To my wife, Eva Alkalay Graves*

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**GERMAN  
THE  
EASY  
WAY**

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# INTRODUCTION

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**Teacher (to little Tommy):** Don't say 'I ain't coming.' You must say 'I am not coming, he is not coming, we are not coming...'

**Little Tommy:** Ain't nobody coming?

Soon Tommy will learn how to say it correctly. Most children speak as if they knew their grammar. Self-consciousness afflicts mainly grown-ups. Lucky are those who can retain into adulthood that parrot-like gift of the child of "picking up" a foreign tongue. It is a sad fact that a minimum of grammar is essential for the proper study of a foreign language. But grammar in this book is not the bugaboo of yesterday. You will be eased into it without pain. Please keep in mind, this book wants to make friends with you; it tries to be neighborly, lively and humorous.

The topics, as outlined in the table of contents, are relevant to everyday situations and problems. There is a storyline (sort of), not exactly a cliff-hanger, yet designed to keep you interested. And there are characters in the story itself that you will recognize, a friend, a relative, maybe yourself. Anecdotes, jokes, and brain teasers are interspersed throughout the text to lend it variety. There are loads of exercises also —not too hard, I believe — following each section. The answer key at the back of the book will enable you to verify your responses. There are German-English and English-German Vocabularies, a list of strong and irregular verbs, and a pronunciation guide.

You probably know that German is spoken today by close to ninety million people living in West Germany, East Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. German is used and understood by millions elsewhere in Europe and around the world. It is recognized as one of the great international languages and is particularly useful in the fields of science, technology and commerce. West Germany is one of the leading industrial countries, ranking second only to the United States. Every fourth machine on the world market today was manufactured in West Germany. The economy of this country of sixty-two million is larger than that of the United States west of the Mississippi River, twice as big as that of the entire Spanish-speaking world.

Knowing German will give you access to some of the world's finest literature, and, in works of non-fiction, to superior reference- and textbooks on every conceivable subject. Visiting one of the German-speaking countries as a tourist, your pleasure will be vastly enhanced if you are able to talk with the Germans, the Austrians, and the Swiss in their native tongue.

May I tell you how to use this book? Set aside half an hour each day or one to two hours three times a week for its study; then stick to your schedule. Read each lesson aloud, and repeat what you have read. Repetition in language study is half the battle. Test yourself daily on the vocabulary that you have just learned. Your stock of words will grow by leaps and bounds. Some of them will be identical with their English counterparts, others will strike you as quite similar; this fact alone should give you a head start. Since German is closely related to English, you will know a great number of words even before you get going. You will notice that German is largely a phonetic language, which means that you will pronounce most words the way they are spelled. Speak and listen at any opportunity to German-speaking people here or abroad. Don't be afraid to speak. Nobody is going to laugh at you. People will usually help and respect you for the effort.

Let me tell you something: There are many Germans whose grammar will be poorer than yours. So don't worry about using the wrong word. Remember what Mark Twain once said: "As for the adjective, when in doubt, leave it out"

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## CHAPTER 1

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# Auf dem Weg zum Schwimmbad On the Way to the Pool

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## How to Pronounce It Properly

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It is hot in the city. There is only one thought that occupies the mind of Anton Gruber, an employee of the Schmidt Advertising Agency, just back from the office in his apartment where the air conditioning has broken down. It is 5 p.m.:

**Schwimmen!**

Shvīmēn!

To swim!

**Ich muß schwimmen gehn.**

Īch mōōss shvīmēn gāyn.

I must swimming go.

(Pardon the word order.)

The *i* in *schwimmen* is short as in most vowels that are followed by two or more consonants. The ̣ on top of the vowel *i* shows you that it is a short vowel. But the ̣ on top of the *a* in *gāyn* means that here we have a long vowel. In this chapter a short vowel (*ä, ë, ĩ, ö, ū*) or umlaut (*ä, ö, ü*) is marked by the symbol ̣, and a long vowel or umlaut by the symbol ̄. Concerning the *ich*: please do not say *ik*; it sounds icky. This kind of *ch* is similar to an exaggerated *h*, as in *Hugh*. The *i* before it is short, as in *nitwit*. The *u* in *muß* is short also—think of the dog with the ugly *puss*. And look again at the word *schwimmen*. Germans have to put a *c* between the *s* and the *h*, but it's still pronounced *sh*. Watch out for the German *w*. This is always pronounced like the English *v*.

Anton needs company, so he says to himself:

**Ich glaube, ich geh mit Susie.**

Īch gloubē ĩch gāy mīt Sūsīe.

I think I (will go) go with Susie.

The *au* in *glaube* should remind you of *Ouch!!* Anyway, he calls his girlfriend:

**Susie, willst du schwimmen gehn?**

Sūsīe, vīlst dōō shvīmēn gāyn?

Susie, wilt thou swimming go? (Do you want to go swimming?)

Actually, the word is *gehen*, but when you speak you often skip the second *e*. The Germans, being a very poetic people, ask a question the way William Shakespeare would. Apparently she agrees because he continues:

**Gut, ich komme um zehn Uhr.**

Gōōt, ĩch kōmē ōōm tsāyn ōōr.

Good, I come (will come) at ten o'clock.

The *u* in the German *gut* rhymes with *loot* or *boot*, so it's long. The *o* in *komme* is short, as in *on* (Come *on!*). The *u* in *um* is also short as in *my foot!* The *z* in *zehn* must be pronounced like *ts*. Think of the last Tsar of Russia. To sound it like an *s* is prohibited on pain of death. The *h* in *zehn* merely tells you to lengthen the vowel. It does the same after an *a*, an *o* or a *u*. Therefore, the sound of the *u* in

*Uhr* is long. If from now on you are to pronounce the *oo* as a *long* sound, it will have a bar over it like this:  $\bar{o}\bar{o}$ . You'll remember it if you think of the  $\bar{o}\bar{o}$  sound in the verb *to ooze*. So Anton picks her up, and on the way to the pool they talk:

**ANTON** **Schönes Wetter heute, nicht wahr?**

Shōnēs vēttēr hoitē, nicht vāhr?

Nice weather today, isn't it?

In *schönes* we have the *ö* which, because of the funny little dots on top of the *o*, is called an umlaut ( $\bar{o}\bar{umlaut}$ ). Please practice this sound in front of a mirror. You cannot produce it correctly unless you look funny, with your lips rounded and pushed forward forcefully. Imagine that you are sucking a lemon. The *eu* in *heute* sounds like the *oy* in *boy*. The umlaut of *au* is *äu* as in *Sau, Säue* (*sow, sows, the adult female swine*), likewise pronounced like an *oy* (*soye*). Now the *nicht wahr*. This expression is most practical. It takes the place of all those English phrases like *isn't it, aren't they, don't you, doesn't she*, etc.

**SUSIE** **Absolut! Ich freu mich aufs Schwimmen.**

Äbsölút! Ích froi mīch oufs shvīmēn.

Absolutely! I look forward to the swim.

**Dann können wir ein Boot mieten.**

Dān kōnēn vīr ein bōt meētēn.

Then we can a boat rent.

*Absolut*: There are no accents like the ' on top of a vowel in German. However, most German words are stressed on the first syllable. If the first syllable is not to be stressed, the accent mark ' will be shown on the stressed syllable for the purposes of this text.

The correct word is *freue*. But the *e* at the end is frequently dropped. The *a* in *dann* is not like the *a* in English *pat* but more like the *o* in *pot*. Every vowel if doubled becomes long. Please try a straight *o* without the off-glide into the *oa* (as in the English *boat*).

**ANTON** **Was tust du später?**

Vās tōost dōō shpāytēr?

What dost thou (are you doing) later? (Shakespeare again)

The *a* in *was* is short, as in *cop*. In *später* you pronounce the *sp* like *shp*. The same is true with other words that start with an *sp*. Words starting with an *st* are likewise sounded as if they began with *sh*, like *Stadt* (city): *shtāt*. The *ä* in *später* sounds exactly like an *e*; it always sounds like an ordinary *e*, pronounced *āy*, as in *gehen*.

**SUSIE** **Ich muß meine Mutter besuchen.**

Ích mōōss meinē mōōttēr bēsōōchēn.

I must my mother visit.

As you can see again, the Germans use a different word order. Quite often the verb stands at the end of the sentence. We'll talk about this later. The *ei* in *meine*—be sure to pronounce the *e* at the end of the word—and any other *ei* (or *ai*) always sound like the *ei* in *kaleidoscope*. The *u* in *Mutter* is short because it is followed by a double consonant. That is true for every vowel (*a, e, i, o, u*) followed by a double consonant. *Besuchen* has the accent on the second syllable, which is true of every verb starting with *be-* or *ge-*. The *ch* in *besuchen* sounds ugly. It is like the noise you make when something gets stuck in your throat and you try to get it up.

**ANTON** **Warum mußt du sie besuchen?**

Vārōōm mōōst dōō zēē bēsōōchēn?

Why must thou her visit?

In *warum* you accent the second syllable. The *e* in *sie* merely serves to lengthen the *i*. *Sie* rhymes with Robert E. *Lee*.

**SUSIE Sie ist krank. (*Krank* rhymes with *honk*.)**  
 Zēē ĭst krānk.  
 She is ill.

**ANTON Was fehlt ihr? (*Ihr* rhymes with *here*.)**  
 Vās fāylt ēēr?  
 What ails her? (What's wrong with her?)

**SUSIE Nicht viel. Aber sie fühlt sich nicht wohl.**  
 Nīcht feēl. Aabēr zēē fūlt zīch nīcht vōl.  
 Not much. But she feels not well.

The *ch* in *nicht* sounds exactly like the one in *ich* that we had before. *Viel* is pronounced like *feel*. The Germans are very nasty in using two different letters for exactly the same sound. The German *v* (almost) always sounds like an *f*. In *Vogel* (bird) or in *Feder* (feather) you hear the same *f* sound. You will insult them by calling their favorite car a *Vokswagen*. It is a *Folkswagen*. The *l* in this word must be pronounced, and the *a* is a straight *a*, as in *Saab*, the Volkswagen's Swedish competitor. The *ü* in *fühlt* is, you guessed it, an umlaut. Kindly refer to what was said in the case of the *ö*. Round your lips and push them forward even more vigorously so that the sound comes out through a little round hole.

**ANTON Was sagt der Doktor?**  
 Vās sāagt dēr dōctōr?  
 What says the doctor?

**SUSIE Sie soll im Bett bleiben und Medizin nehmen.**  
 Zēē sōl ĩm bēt bleibēn oōnd mēdītsēēn nāymēn.  
 She should in bed stay and medicine take.

*Medizin* has the accent on the last syllable.

**ANTON Braucht sie jemanden?**  
 Broucht zēē yāymāndēn?  
 Needs she somebody?

The *j* in *jemanden* is always pronounced like the *y* in *yodel*, never like the *j* in *jackass*.

**SUSIE Nein, sie hat ja kein Fieber.**  
 Nīnē, zēē hāt yā kīnē feebēr.  
 No, she has no fever.

The *ja* doesn't mean much. It's just a filler used to confirm Susie's conviction that her mother is not all that sick.

**ANTON Soll ich dich morgen vom Büro abholen?**  
 Sōl ĭch dīch mōrgēn fōm būrō ābhōlēn?  
 Shall I you tomorrow from the office pick up?

**Ich komme gern.**  
 ĭch kōme gēr̄n.  
 I (will) come gladly.

The *g* in *morgen* and the *g* in *gern* both sound like the *g* in *go*. The *g* always sounds that way in German, never never like the *g* in *gin*. The accent in *Büro* is on the *o*. The *o* in *abholen* is long, as in *hole*.

**SUSIE Ja, natürlich. Vielleicht können wir tanzen gehn.**  
 Yā, nātūrlīch. Fīleícht kōnēn vīr tāntsēn gāyn.  
 Yes, naturally (of course). Maybe can we dancing go.

*Natürlich* has the accent on the second syllable. Never pronounce the German *ei* like an *ee*. Leonard Bernstein won't forgive you if you pronounce his name *Bernsteen* instead of *Bernstine*. Remember *kaleidoscope*?

**ANTON In der Stadt oder am Strand?**  
 ĭn dēr shtāt ođer ām shtrānd?  
 In the city or at the beach?

- SUSIE In der Stadt.** (*Stadt* rhymes with *pot*.)  
 Īn dēr shtāt.  
 In the city.
- Vielleicht können Karl und Nora mitkommen.**  
 Fīleícht kōñēn Kārl ðōnd Nōrā mītkōmēn.  
 Maybe can Karl and Nora come along.
- Er ist ein guter Tänzer, und**  
 Air ĩst ein gōōtēr tēntsēr ðōnd  
 He is a good dancer and
- sie ist eine nette Frau.**  
 zēē ĩst einē nētē frow. (*Frau* rhymes with *now*.)  
 she is a nice woman.

Concerning the German *r*: it does sound a bit different from its English counterpart. The Germans like to roll it most of the time (as the Scotsmen do). The most difficult consonant to pronounce is probably the *l*. Try to do it with the tip of your tongue against the back surface of your upper front teeth. It should sound like the flat *l* in *William*. But don't worry. German folks have lived in this country for a long time and still can't get our American *l* straight. You will probably be told that you have a charming American accent. And you will now be able to read (and, I hope, pronounce correctly) every word in the complete dialog. If you find you have forgotten one word or another, you can look it up in the vocabulary at the end of the book.

- ANTON Schwimmen! Ich muß schwimmen gehn. Ich**  
 Shvīmēn! Īch mōōss shvīmēn gāyn. Īch  
**glaube, ich geh mit Susie.—Susie, willst du schwimmen gehn?—Gut, ich**  
 gloube, ĩch gāy mīt Sūsīe.—Sūsīe, vīlst dōō shvīmēn gāyn?—Gōōt, ĩch  
**komme um zehn Uhr.—Schönes Wetter heute, nicht wahr?**  
 kōmē ðōm tsāyn ōōr.—Shōnēs vēttēr hoitē, nīcht vāhr?
- SUSIE Absolut. Ich freu mich aufs Schwimmen.**  
 Ābsōlūt. Īch froi mīch uufs shvīmēn.  
**Dann können wir ein Boot mieten.**  
 Dān kōñēn vīr ein bōt meetēn.
- ANTON Was tust du später?**  
 Vās tōōst dōō shpāyter?
- SUSIE Ich muß meine Mutter besuchen.**  
 Īch mōōss meinē mōōttēr bēsōōchēn.
- ANTON Warum mußt du sie besuchen?**  
 Vārōōm mōōst dōō zēē bēsōōchēn?
- SUSIE Sie ist krank.**  
 Zēē ĩst krānk.
- ANTON Was fehlt ihr?**  
 Vās fāylt ēer?
- SUSIE Nicht viel. Aber sie fühlt sich nicht wohl.**  
 Nīcht fēel. Āabēr zēē fūlt zīch nīcht vōl.
- ANTON Was sagt der Doktor?**  
 Vās sāagt dēr dōctōr?
- SUSIE Sie soll im Bett bleiben und Medizin nehmen.**  
 Zēē sōl ĩm bēt bleibēn ðōnd mēdītsēēn nāymēn.
- ANTON Braucht sie jemanden?**  
 Broucht zēē yāymāndēn?
- SUSIE Nein, sie hat ja kein Fieber.**  
 Nīne, zēē hāt yā kein fēebēr.

**ANTON Soll ich dich morgen vom Büro abholen?**

Sōl ǐch dǐch mōrgēn fōm būró ābhōlēn?

**Ich komme gern.**

Ǫch kōme gēr̄n.

**SUSIE Ja, natürlich. Vielleicht können wir tanzen gehn.**

Yā, nātūrlich. Filéicht kōnēn vīr tāntsēn gāyn.

**ANTON In der Stadt oder am Strand?**

Ǫn dēr shtāt ōder ām shtrānd?

**SUSIE In der Stadt. Vielleicht können Karl und**

Ǫn dēr shtāt. Filéicht kōnēn Kārl ōōnd

**Nora mitkommen. Er ist ein guter Tänzer,**

Nōrā mītkōmēn. Air ǐst ein gōōter tēntsēr

**und sie ist eine nette Frau.**

ōōnd zēē ǐst eine nētē frow.

*Please note:* All nouns and words used as nouns are capitalized in German.

When is a German vowel long? When is it short?

<b>später</b>	<b>Boot</b>	<b>zehn</b>	<b>mieten</b>
shpāyter	bōt	tsāyn	mēēten
later	boat	ten	to rent

A vowel (or umlaut) is long if it is followed by a single consonant (*t* in *später*); if it is doubled (*oo* in *Boot*); if it is followed by a silent *h* (*h* in *zehn*); if it is followed by a silent *e* (*e* in *mieten*).

<b>schwimmen</b>	<b>Wetter</b>	<b>tanzen</b>
shvīmēn	vēt̄tēr	tāntsēn
to swim	weather	to dance

A vowel is short if it is followed by more than one consonant; it is also short if it is an *e* in the last syllable of a word that ends with an *-en* or *-er*, as shown.

Sometimes the German *e* sound was transcribed with an *ay*, as in *geh* (*gay*—go) or the German *o* sound with an *ō*. As mentioned before, there is no off-glide sound. The straight *e* as in *heir*, and the straight *o* as in *four* or *floor* are strictly maintained.

Also, there is no *y* sound in front of the German *u*. Examples: The German word *Uhr* (watch, clock) is pronounced *oor*, not *yoor*. The German verb *fuhr* (drove) sounds like *foor*, not *fyoor*.

The letter *ß* is called *ess-tsett* or *scharfes s*, and is pronounced like *s*, as in *weiß* (white) or in *Nuß* (nut).

The combination *chs* is pronounced *ks* in words like *sechs* (six) or *Luchs* (lynx).

In words with a *gn* or a *kn* both consonants are sounded, as in the German *Knie* (knee) or *Gnade* (mercy). Do not say *Kenie* or *Genade*. There is no pause between the *K* and the *n*, or between the *G* and the *n*. Do not insert a vowel (like a short *e*) between the consonants.

The *ck* sounds exactly like a *k*, as in *Sack* (sack).

### Das deutsche Alphabét

Dās doitchē ālfābāyt

The German alphabet

German letter	pronounced like
<b>a</b>	ah (as in <i>father</i> )
<b>b</b>	bay
<b>c</b>	tsay (today used mostly in words with a <i>ch</i> or <i>sch</i> )
<b>d</b>	day
<b>e</b>	eh (no off-glide sound)

German letter	pronounced like
f	ef
g	gay
h	haa (rhymes with <i>baa</i> )
i	ee (rhymes with <i>sea</i> )
j	yot
k	kaa (rhymes with <i>blah</i> )
l	el
m	em
n	en
o	oh (no off-glide sound; pronounced as in <i>four</i> )
p	pay
q	koo
r	err (roll it most of the time)
s	ess
t	tay
u	oo (rhymes with <i>boo</i> )
v	fou (as in <i>foul</i> ; rhymes with <i>sow</i> )
w	vay
x	iks (rhymes with <i>six</i> )
y	üpsilon (accent on the first syllable)
z	tsett

Y is a rare letter in German. It should always be pronounced like an *ü* as in *Zylinder* (tsülínder, top hat) or *Ägypten* (äygipten, Egypt). It also occurs as the end vowel in first names like *Anny*, *Fanny*, *Pauly*, etc. It is then pronounced like a short *i*.

There is a Pronunciation Guide at the end of the book.

The following tongue twister provides good practice for the student struggling with the *v*'s and *w*'s. Remember, the German *w* sounds like the English *v*.

**Wir Wiener Waschweiber würden weiße Wäsche**

Vēer vēēnēr vāshveibēr vūrdēn veissē vēshē

We Viennese washerwomen would white laundry

**waschen, wenn wir wüßten, wo warmes, weiches**

vāshēn, vēn vēer vūsstēn, vō vārmēs, veichēs

wash, if we knew where warm, soft

**Wasser wäre.**

vāsser vāyrē.

water was.

A young housewife who did not have much money to spend asked a German butcher the price of some hamburger steak. "Vitch von?" he wanted to know. "Zis von or zat von?" She pointed it out to him.

"A dollar a pound," he said.

"But," she replied, "at the store across the street they charge only fifty cents."

"Vel," asked Franz, "vy don't you buy it from zem?"

"They are out of it," she explained.

"Aha," answered the butcher. "Ven I am out of it, I sell it for twenty-five cents."

**EXERCISES:** Try to do them on your own. If you get desperate, look up the answers in the key at the end of the book.

- The *ch* in *ich* sounds like the first letter of
  - kind
  - huge
  - chop
- The *w* in *schwimmen* is pronounced like the first letter of
  - wisdom
  - whether
  - vain

3. The *au* in **glaube** sounds like the vowel sound in
  - a. mouse
  - b. taught
  - c. food
4. The *z* in **zehn** reminds you of
  - a. zip
  - b. tsar
  - c. silk
5. The *u* in **Uhr** is like the sound in
  - a. lure
  - b. unit
  - c. unload
6. The *eu* in **heute** reminds you of the sound in
  - a. road
  - b. boy
  - c. Hugh
7. The *ch* in **besuchen** is the sound that you hear in
  - a. loch
  - b. Hugo
  - c. macho
8. The *ei* in **meine** reminds you of
  - a. keen
  - b. mean
  - c. fine
9. The *a* in **krank** rhymes with
  - a. crank
  - b. honk
  - c. song
10. The *eh* in **fehlt** rhymes with
  - a. mailed
  - b. field
  - c. held
11. The *v* in **viel** is the same as the first letter of
  - a. veal
  - b. foal
  - c. will
12. The *j* in **jemanden** sounds like the first letter of
  - a. John
  - b. gypsy
  - c. yonder
13. The *g* in **gern** is pronounced like the *g* in
  - a. goose
  - b. gentle
  - c. ginger
14. The *st* in **Stadt** sounds like
  - a. *sht*
  - b. *st*
  - c. *ts*
15. The *ö* in **können** reminds you of the sound in
  - a. gone
  - b. pen
  - c. curse
16. The name of the German letter *x* is:
  - a. *iks*
  - b. eggs
  - c. *aks*
17. The *chs* in **Büchse** (box) sounds like
  - a. *sh*
  - b. *gs*
  - c. *ks*
18. The German *y* in **Zypern** (Cyprus) is pronounced like
  - a. *ü*
  - b. *i*
  - c. *u*
19. You pronounce the word **Knödel** (dumpling) like
  - a. **Nödel**
  - b. **Knödel**
  - c. **Kenödel**
20. You pronounce the word **Gnom** (gnome, a dwarf) like
  - a. noun
  - b. genóum
  - c. gnohm

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## CHAPTER 2

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# Anton und seine nette Nachbarin, Frau Müller

## Anton and His Nice Neighbor, Mrs. Müller

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### The Article (*the* book, *a* book)

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#### 1. The Definite Article—*der, die, das, etc.* (the)

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##### Abbreviations:

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##### Genders

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m	masculine (man)
f	feminine (woman)
n	neuter (thing)

##### Numbers

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sing.	singular (one man)
pl.	plural (two or more men)

##### Cases

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nom.	nominative	subject or predicate nominative: <i>The man</i> (subject) is tall. He is <i>a tall man</i> . (predicate nominative)
gen.	genitive	(in English, also called possessive): the face <i>of the man</i> (possessive: belonging to the man)
dat.	dative	(better known in English as the indirect object): He gives it <i>to the man</i> . (To whom does he give it?)
acc.	accusative	(better known in English as the direct object): He sees <i>the man</i> . (Whom does he see?)

At this point we should also mention the fact that the prepositions (such as *in, at, on, for*; in German: *in, an, auf, für* etc.) control the case forms of their objects. However, no noun or pronoun that is the object of a preposition ever occurs in the nominative case.

In German all nouns (words that are the names of something) are either masculine, feminine, or neuter. Male persons are naturally masculine; female persons, feminine (there are a few exceptions that can, for the time being, safely be ignored); things can be either masculine, feminine, or neuter. Please try to memorize the article along with the noun: *der Mann*, the man; *die Frau*, the woman; *das Ding*, the thing; *der Strand, die Stadt*. The last two are things, yet one is masculine, the other feminine.



**Die Wohnung****(The Apartment) I**

**Der Eisschrank (m)** (ice shronk)  
in der Küche (f) *des Mannes* ist  
immer voll.

The refrigerator  
in the kitchen of the  
man is always full.

In *dem* großen Kasten (m) im  
Wohnzimmer (n) sind  
viele Bücher (n).

In the big cabinet in the  
living room there are  
many books.

*Den* kleineren Raum (m)  
benutzt er als  
Schlafzimmer (n).

The smaller room  
he uses as  
a bedroom.

*Please note: Eisschrank* is a compound noun: *Eis* (n) and *Schrank* (m). The last noun, *Schrank*, determines the gender of the whole word. Wherever the natural gender is obvious, the notation *m*, *f*, or *n* has often been omitted.

These are the four cases of the masculine singular (m. sing.):

nom.: *der Eisschrank*  
gen.: *des Mannes*  
dat.: *dem Kasten*  
acc.: *den Raum*

the refrigerator (subject)  
of the man  
(in) the cabinet  
the room (direct object)

**Die Wohnung****(The Apartment) II**

*Die Küche* ist klein,  
aber nett.  
*Das Bild der Mutter*  
hängt an *der Wand* (f).

The kitchen is small  
but nice.  
The picture of the mother  
hangs on the wall.

Von *ihr* bekam er *die*  
Geschirrspülmaschine (f)  
(geschírshpülmasheene).

From her he received the  
dishwasher.

*Seine Mutter* ist leider  
tot.

His mother unfortunately  
is dead.

These are the four cases of the feminine singular (f. sing.):

nom.: *die Küche*  
gen.: *der Mutter*  
dat.: *der Wand*  
acc.: *die Geschirrspülmaschine*

the kitchen (subject)  
of the mother  
(on) the wall  
the dishwasher (direct object)

**die Wohnung****(The Apartment) III**

*Das Fenster* in der Küche  
ist immer offen, auch *das*  
*des Badezimmers* (n). *Dem*  
*Putzmädchen* (n) öffnet er  
*die Hauseingangstür* (f)  
(houseingongstür) von  
oben. Man betritt *das*  
*Wohnzimmer* vom  
*Flur* (m).

The window in the kitchen  
is always open, also that  
of the bathroom. For the  
cleaning girl he opens  
the house entrance door  
from above. One enters the  
living room from the  
corridor.

These are the four cases of the neuter singular (n. sing.):

nom.: *das Fenster*  
gen.: *des Badezimmers*  
dat.: *dem Putzmädchen*  
acc.: *das Wohnzimmer*

the window (subject)  
of the bathroom  
for the cleaning girl  
the living room (direct object)