

## DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ENGLISH AND GERMAN ARTICLES

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**Abstract:** *Easily the most obvious difference between English and German is how complicated it is to learn articles. The fact that the German language has multiple versions of each article is incredibly unusual for an English speaker. Most European languages have two genders for their articles, but German has three. The German language has multiple versions of each article is incredibly unusual for an English speaker.*

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Learning articles between English and German is not an easy feat. The German language has multiple articles because of which an English speaker takes time to learn the words and pronunciations. Usually, in European languages, there are two genders. German has three genders. This means three articles are used for nouns, which takes some time to get accustomed to. It's easy to get confused and lose confidence in the way of learning German, but don't be too self-conscious. It takes time, but you can get the hang of German easily.

Learning the gender of a noun is only the beginning. The real challenge comes when you realize that each of those articles changes based on the case. There are four cases:

- Nominative
- Accusative
- Dative
- Genitive

Not only do nouns have gendered articles, plurals have their own article that also changes based on case. You will be spending more time learning everything there is to know about articles than pretty much any other part of German. This is why it is essential to learn the appropriate article for each noun. You must learn the declension of der, die, das, so that you have it perfectly by heart; it will be good discipline for you. But as you never meet with the Definite Article alone, but always in combination with nouns, the mere learning of the declension is not enough, you must learn it in the proper setting [1,18].

*However, you do not use definite or definite article in German if you are indicating a form of identity, nationality or profession.*

Simply learning the gender of a noun is not enough. You also have to know the context of the noun to use the right version of the article. For example, if the



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noun is the subject of the sentence, you will use a different article than if the noun is the object of an accusative preposition.

If the masculine noun is in the dative case, you use the third article to denote that. This can be incredibly difficult to learn, so learning German usually means starting with very basic, simple sentences so that you can learn the right genders for common vocabulary words before throwing you into the incredibly complex changes of longer sentences.

When you talk about your job or where you live, you identify with it: "I am a teacher" "I'm a New Yorker." In Germany, they do not require the article, which can be very jarring: "I am a teacher" and "I am a New Yorker." When JFK spoke to the people in Berlin and announced "I am a Berliner," he actually told them that he was a jelly donut. He should have said, "I am Berliner." They still knew what he meant though, and appreciated the sentiment!

The German language has multiple versions of each article is incredibly unusual for an English speaker. Cases are another German grammar concept that doesn't exist in English, otherwise known as: nominative, accusative, dative, and genitive. To give a quick summary of German cases:

Case	Use	German	English
<b>Nominative</b>	Subject does the action	Die Frau lebt in Deutschland.	The woman lives in Germany.
<b>Accusative</b>	Direct object receives the action	Das Kind isst einen Apfel.	The child eats an apple.
<b>Dative</b>	Indirect object receives the action	Ich schenke dir eine Blume.	I give you a flower.
<b>Genitive</b>	Possession	Der Koffer des Mannes	The man's suitcase

When your sentence uses a noun, then you need to make sure you use both the correct gender and change it for the appropriate case. Here is a summary of noun genders per each case [2,36]:

Case	Masculine	Feminine	Neutral	Plural
<b>Nominative</b>	der	die	das	die
<b>Accusative</b>	den	die	das	die
<b>Dative</b>	dem	der	dem	den
<b>Genitive</b>	des	der	des	der

Points one and two on this list may in fact be the hardest part of learning German if you're a native English speaker, because for each case and noun, you would only use the word "the". But as a native English speaker who has learned



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German, I feel your pain, and it does get easier to recognise the differences over time.

In using articles, English uses **a**, **an** and **the** as indefinite and definite articles, respectively. In German, the articles have gender, thus the definite article "**der**" is used for masculine, "**die**" for feminine and plural words and "**das**" for neuter. While, for the indefinite article "**ein**" is used for masculine, "**eine**" for feminine and "**ein**" for neuter gender. Now we come to the indefinite and the definite articles with some examples [3,11-14].

For example for definite article:

- The car: **der** Auto
- The house: **das** Haus
- The cat: **die** Katze
- The dog: **der** Hund
- The fish: **der** Fisch
- The garden: **der** Garten
- The father: **der** Vater
- The mother: **die** Mutter
- The uncle: **der** Onkel
- The sister: **die** Schwester
- The boy: **der** Junge
- The daughter: **die** Tochter

For example for indefinite article:

- A car: **ein** Auto
- A house: **ein** Haus
- A cat: **eine** Katze
- A dog: **ein** Hund
- A fish: **ein** Fisch
- A garden: **ein** Garten
- A father: **ein** Vater
- A mother: **eine** Mutter
- An uncle: **ein** Onkel
- A sister: **eine** Schwester
- A boy: **ein** Junge
- A daughter: **eine** Tochter

So how do you know if a word is feminine or masculine in German? Unfortunately, it's not always logical— it's just something you'll have to learn! There's no reason why **der Salat** is masculine and **die Pizza** is feminine. That's just how it is! Remember that all nouns have a gender in German, and that **der** and **ein** change form depending on that gender.



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The German and English languages are West Germanic. When it comes to German and English, there differences because German was the root language for English.

If you are adult learner with no previous knowledge of German language, than this article is for you. It will provide all the basics of German Language with comparison of English Language. So you can easily relate German Language with English.

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