



## Provincial Department of Education – Sabaragamuwa – Week School

Week:04

Subject: German

Grade -12

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### Module 02

## Nominativ, Akkusativ, and Dativ

### Nominativ

- for the **subject** of a sentence: who or what is doing this?

Der Student lernt Deutsch.

- for **predicate nouns**: when the main verb is *sein* or *werden*, use the nominative for both subject and predicate nouns.

Das ist ein Tisch.

### Akkusativ

- for the **direct object** of a sentence: who or what is being <verbed>?

Ich habe einen Tisch.

*What do you have? A table.*

### Dativ

- for the **indirect object** of a sentence. An indirect object is the beneficiary of whatever happens in a sentence. It's usually a person, although it doesn't have to be. If you ask yourself: "TO whom or FOR whom is this being done?", the answer will be the indirect object, and in German it will need the dative case. Remember that not every sentence will have an indirect object -- only some verbs allow an indirect object: *to give (to)*, *to bring (to)*, *to tell (to)*, *to buy (for)*, *to send (to)* are some examples of verbs that will almost

always have an indirect object. In English, we don't distinguish the direct and indirect object in the forms of words; instead, we often use "to" or "for" to mark these.

Ich gebe <u>der Frau</u> ein Buch.	I'm giving <u>her</u> a book = a book <u>to her</u> .
Er schenkt <u>mir</u> ein Buch.	He's giving <u>me</u> a book.
Ich habe das <u>dem Mann</u> schon gesagt.	I already told <u>the man</u> that.

- after the **dativ prepositions**: *aus, außer, bei, mit, nach, seit, von, zu* (memory aid: Blue Danube Waltz). A noun immediately following these prepositions is ALWAYS in the dative case. There are many possible translations of these prepositions, depending on exactly what the context of the sentence is. Please refer to your textbook, pp. 239-240, for more detailed explanation of the meanings of each preposition.

Sie haben ein Geschenk <u>von ihrem Vater</u> bekommen.	<i>From their father.</i>
<u>Außer meiner Mutter</u> spricht meine ganze Familie Deutsch.	<i>Except for my mother.</i>
Ich fahre am Wochenende <u>zu meiner Tante</u> in Minnesota.	<i>To my aunt's.</i>

- after **dativ verbs**: *helfen, danken, gefallen, gehören, schmecken, passen*. See your book for more details on each verb. There's no direct translation that explains why these verbs take a dative object, it's just an idiosyncrasy of German -- it's best just to memorize these verbs as requiring the dative, even though the following noun doesn't 'feel' like an indirect object.

Ich helfe <u>dir</u> mit deinen Hausaufgaben.	<i>I'm helping you = I'm giving help to you.</i>
Wir danken <u>Ihnen</u> , Herr Stein.	<i>We're thanking you = we're giving thanks to you.</i>

- with some **adjectives** which describe a condition. You'll just need to know these as fixed phrases.

<u>Mir</u> ist warm.	<i>To me (it) is warm / I'm warm.</i>
Wie geht es <u>dir</u> ?	<i>How's it going / How are you doing?</i>

- the preposition **“in”** often uses the dative case. Later this week you will be learning more about this preposition and how to use it correctly. For now, the most you need to know is that when 'in' is used with a stationary verb (e.g. He's in the house), it takes the dative case.

Der Tisch steht <u>in der Küche</u> .	<i>Where is it? In the kitchen.</i>
Mein Schreibtisch ist <u>im Arbeitszimmer</u> .	<i>Note that im = in dem</i>
Die Kinder sind <u>in ihren Zimmern</u> .	<i>The children are in their rooms, plural.</i>

If you need reference to these, here's a table of the different endings and pronouns in the three cases:

	<u>Nom</u>	<u>Akk</u>	<u>Dat</u>	<u>(Poss)</u>
1 sg	ich	mich	mir	(mein_)
2 sg	du	dich	dir	(dein_)
3 sg	er	ihn	ihm	(sein_)
3 sg	sie	sie	ihr	(ihr_)
3 sg	es	es	ihm	(sein_)
1 pl	wir	uns	uns	(unser_)
2 pl	ihr	euch	euch	(euer_)
3 pl	sie	sie	ihnen	(ihr_)
form	Sie	Sie	Ihnen	(Ihr_)
masc	der	den	dem	
fem	die	die	der	
neut	das	das	dem	
plur	die	die	den (+ _n)	
masc	ein	einen	einem	
fem	eine	eine	einer	
neut	ein	ein	einem	
plur	keine	keine	keinen (+ _n)	
masc	unser	unseren	unserem	
fem	unsere	unsere	unserer	
neut	unser	unser	unserem	
plur	unsere	unsere	unseren (+ _n)	
masc	dieser	diesen	diesem	
fem	diese	diese	dieser	
neut	dieses	dieses	diesem	
plur	diese	diese	diesen (+ _n)	

It may help you to remember these changes with the mnemonic device “rese nese mr mn” -  
 - in other words, der-die-das-die, den-die-das-die, dem-der-dem-den.

## The question words *wer - wen - wem*

To ask “who” in German, you need to decide whether the “who” is the subject, the direct object, or the indirect object. The forms of ‘*wer*’ are just like the masculine article: *wer - wen - wem*.

Wer ist das?

Wer kommt morgen zur Party?

Wen hast du eingeladen?

Wem hast du das Buch gegeben?

*Who is that?*

*Who's coming to the party tomorrow?*

*Whom did you invite?*

*To whom did you give the book?*

## Exercises

Fill in the blank ( using dem, der or den/n)

1. Ich schreibe .....Mutter den Brief.
2. Der Mann gibt.....Kind das Buch.
3. Die Mutter bringt.....Kinder.....die Schokolade.
4. Das Kind zeigt.....Vater das Bild.
5. Ich gebe .....Freund das Telegramm.
6. Er dankt.....Lehrer.
7. Wir helfen.....Freunde.
8. Sie antworten.....Vater.
9. Wir denken.....Frauen.
10. Er gibt.....Mann die Zigaretten.