Module 02

Nouns and Articles in German Grammar

Nouns are words that describe beings, places and things e. g. *die Frau* – the woman, *der Bahnhof* – the railwaystation, *das Wetter* – the weather. German nouns can be used with masculine *(der)*, feminine *(die)* or neuter *(das)* articles and they are always written with a capital letter. German noun endings change to match the case they are in.

In the following pages, you will learn to use German nouns and articles in their singular and plural forms as well as in the nominative, accusative, dative and genitive cases. At the end of each page, there are exercises so you can practice using nouns and articles in German.

Gender: der, die, das

The grammatical gender shows if a noun is masculine, feminine, or neuter. In German, it's often impossible to tell this just from looking at the noun, but there are some clues that can help you determine the gender.
Example:

> der Schmetterlinge
>
> die Umgebung
>
> das Märchen

Articles

In German, we generally use nouns together with their articles. The article tells us the gender, number, and case of the noun. There are indefinite articles *(ein, eine)* and definite articles *(der, die, das)*.

Example:

ein/der Mann

eine/die Frau   *ein/das* Kind

Plural

The plural in German can take the endings *n/en, e, r/er, s*, or no ending at all. Here we explain when each plural ending should be used.

Example:

    die Universität – die Universität*en*

    die Oma – die Oma*s*

Declension

In German, nouns have to be declined. Here, we explain when to use each case and what you need to pay attention to when declining a noun.

Example:

    der Mann, *des* Mann*es*, *dem* Mann, *den* Mann

    die Frau, *der* Frau, *der* Frau, *die* Frau

Exercises

use the correct articles

Example: a) der löffel   b) des Messer

1. …………. Telefon.
2. ……………. Stuhl.
3. …………. Schrank.
4. …………. Lampe.
5. …………. Platte.
6. …………. Tasse.
7. …………. Bett.
8. …………. Tasche.
9. …………. Kissen
10. ………… Flasche.