



Definite and indefinite articles (Bestimmt und Unbestimmt Articles)





Class Objective

I will be able to understand the concept of definite and indefinite articles.



The Definite article is used to point out that noun, whose identity is known to the reader.

In English, a definite article comprises 'the'. In German, it changes according to the case and gender.



Indefinite articles are used to point out that noun, that is general, or whose identity is not known to the reader. In English, we use 'a' and 'an' for indefinite articles. In German, we use 'ein' and 'kein', which changes according to the case of the sentence.

Also in German, each noun has a gender. So the articles are divided according to gender, and are assigned to each noun according to its gender.



- 1. Nominative is the case used for a sentence, where the noun or pronoun is the subject.
- 2. Accusative is the case which shows the relationship between the direct object and the verb. It answers the question 'Wen' (who/whom) and 'Was' (what).



3. Dative is the case which shows the indirect object of the verb. The indirect object of the verb is the recipient of the direct object. It answers the question 'Wem'(to whom) and 'Was'(what).

*The extra article 'kein' translates to 'not' in English.



