

Introduction to the German Accusative Case

Sounds of the Accusative Case

Use the following mnemonic device to help you learn the final endings of words that mark the accusative.
“nee see” (n e s e) The sounds are N E S E — This applies to the “der” words.

Chart of the Sounds of the Accusative Endings for the “der” words:

masc	fem	neut	plur
-n	-e	-s	-e

For the “ein” words, use the following memory device:

“nee no ee” (n e ø e) The sounds are N E Ø E for the “ein” words. (The symbol ø represents a zero ending.)

Chart of the Sounds of the Accusative Endings for the “der” words:

masc	fem	neut	plur
-n	-e	-ø	-e

Examples of “der” words in Accusative — Pay particular attention to the final sounds of each word.

masculine (-N)	feminine (-E)	neuter (-S)	plural (-N)	
den	die	das	die	<i>the / the one / this one</i>
diesen	diese	dieses	dieses	<i>this / that / these / those</i>
welchen	welche	welches	welches	<i>which? / what?</i>

Examples of “ein” words in Accusative — Pay particular attention to the final sounds of each word.

masculine (-M)	feminine (-R)	neuter (-M)	plural (-N)	
einen	eine	ein		<i>a / an (no plural)</i>
keinen	keine	kein	keine	<i>no / not a / not any</i>
meinen	meine	mein	meine	<i>my</i>
deinen	deine	dein	deine	<i>your</i>
seinen	seine	sein	seine	<i>his</i>

Personal Pronouns in the Accusative Case (The nominative form is given in parentheses.)

mich	(ich)	me	uns	(wir)	us
dich	(du)	you	euch	(ihr)	you all
ihn	(er)	him			
sie	(sie)	her	Sie	(Sie)	YOU
es	(es)	it	sie	(sie)	them

Comparison of Case Endings — The endings on the “der” words parallel those of the personal pronouns.

<i>der word</i>	den	die	das	die
<i>prounoun</i>	ihn	sie	es	sie
<i>accusative ending</i>	— N	— E	— S	— E

Declensional Endings on Nouns in the Accusative Case

Schwaches Maskulinum – Weak nouns take an additional “N” ending in the accusative.

The declensional ending “N” is the same declensional ending as in the dative with these nouns.

Compare the nominative to the accusative and dative forms of the following nouns.

<i>nominative</i>	<i>accusative</i>	<i>dative</i>
der Student	den Studenten	dem Studenten
der Herr	den Herrn	dem Herrn
der Präsident	den Präsidenten	dem Präsidenten
der Elefant	den Elefanten	dem Elefanten

Examples with accusative case:

Direct Object:

Den Mann kennen wir.

Wir kennen ihn.

Ich besuche die Frau.

Sie besuche ich.

Er sucht das Kind.

Er sucht es.

Kennst du den Nachbarn?

Einen Apfel isst der Nachbar.

Sie kauft ein Auto.

Sie kauft es.

Hast du meinen Kugelschreiber?

Ja, ihn habe ich.

We know the man.

We know him.

I'm visiting the woman.

I'm visiting her.

He's looking for the child.

He's looking for her/him.

Do you know the neighbor?

The neighbor is eating an apple.

She's buying a car.

She's buying it.

Do you have my pen?

Yes, I have it.

Object of Accusative Prepositions:

Ich wähle gegen den Kandidaten.

Gegen ihn wähle ich.

Wir arbeiten für euch.

Durch den Tunnel fährt der Zug.

Gehst du ohne mich ins Kino?

Für meine Frau sind diese Blumen.

Diese Blumen sind für sie.

I'm voting against the candidate.

I'm voting against him.

We're working for you guys.

The train is driving through the tunnel.

Are you going to the cinema without me?

These flowers are for my wife.

These flowers are for her.