

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

Episode 030 – Grammar

1. Verbs with two objects

At the heart of any German sentence is the conjugated verb. Usually there is another component to the sentence - the subject in the nominative. Many verbs require an object as well. The majority of German verbs require an accusative (direct) object, e.g. "nehmen" (to take) and "treffen" (to meet).

Examples:

*Ich nehme **den Füller**.*

*Ich möchte **dich** treffen.*

Some verbs can have another (indirect) object in the dative. Verbs that express the acts of giving, receiving and telling fit into this category.

Who

Subject

Verb

Whom

Dative = person / indirect object

What

Accusative = thing / direct object

Ich

schicke

Helen

den Brief.

The nominative subject ("ich") indicates who is carrying out the action.

"Helen" is the dative (indirect) object of the action.

"den Brief" is the accusative - or direct - object of the action.

In sentences with two objects, usually the dative object comes first, followed by the accusative object. So a typical main clause with the subject placed first would look like this:

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Who

Subject Verb

Harry *gibt*

Whom

Dative = person / indirect object

dem Mann

What

Accusative = thing / direct object

den Brief.

More:

Generally, the dative object also precedes the accusative object when sentences are formulated as questions or imperatives. Only the subject and verb switch positions:

	Verb	Subject	Dative = person / indirect object	Accusative = thing / direct object
	<i>Geben</i>	<i>Sie</i>	<i>mir</i>	<i>den Brief!</i>
<i>Wann</i>	<i>schickst</i>	<i>du</i>	<i>Helen</i>	<i>den Brief?</i>

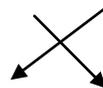
However, if the accusative object is a pronoun, then it moves in front of the dative object, even if the dative object is a pronoun, too.

*Ich schicke **Helen den Brief.***



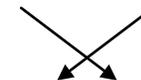
*Ich schicke **ihr den Brief.***

*Ich schicke **Helen den Brief.***



*Ich schicke **ihn Helen.***

*Ich schicke **Helen den Brief.***



*Ich schicke **ihn ihr.***