Episode 099 – Grammar

1. Adjectives that govern case

German adjectives provide more information about something or someone, an occurrence or a condition. They often describe nouns and personal pronouns. Some adjectives can directly govern the grammatical case of the nouns or pronouns that follow them.

**Accusative adjectives**
Adjectives that describe size and length require the accusative.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accusative</th>
<th>Adjective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hoch:</td>
<td>Der Berg ist 500 Meter hoch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lang:</td>
<td>Die Insel ist einen Kilometer lang.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are other adjectives that govern the accusative case, too.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accusative</th>
<th>Adjective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wert:</td>
<td>Es war einen Versuch wert.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Dative adjectives**

You already also know some adjectives that require the dative case.

- **wichtig:**  
  Dative: mir  
  Adjective: wichtig.

- **klar:**  
  Dative: ihm  
  Adjective: klar.

- **peinlich:**  
  Dative: mir  
  Adjective: peinlich.

**Genitive adjectives**

There are also adjectives that require the genitive. Some of them precede a genitive object.

- **voll:**  
  Genitive: ekliger Würmer.

Sometimes, especially in colloquial speech, the inflected form "voller" is used instead of "voll". "voller" is the genitive plural form.

Adjectives with the genitive are often substituted by other constructions using a preposition + the dative.

- Genitive: Wattenmeer ist voller ekliger Würmer.
- Preposition + dative: Das Wattenmeer ist voll von ekligen Würmern.