2. Declension of adjectives in the genitive case

German adjectives describe something or someone, an occurrence or a condition. They often describe nouns and personal pronouns.

If an adjective precedes the noun it refers to, then its ending changes. The adjective is usually placed between the noun and its article.

There are three different patterns of adjective declension depending on whether there is a definite article, indefinite article or no article.

Genitive adjective endings after a definite article
Following a definite article, adjectives in the genitive always end with "en".

Example: 
*Das war das Ende der guten Zeit.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
<th>Neuter</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>des <em>schönen</em> Urlaubs</td>
<td>der <em>teuren</em> Sonnencreme</td>
<td>des <em>berühmten</em> Wattenmeers</td>
<td>der <em>eklichen</em> Würmer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Genitive adjective endings after an indefinite article
After indefinite articles, possessive determiners ("mein", "dein", "ihr", etc.) and the negation article "kein", adjectives in the genitive case also always take the ending "en". Since the indefinite article has no plural, the adjective ending is shown here using the example of "kein".

Example: 
*Wir haben uns wegen eines langweiligen Urlaubs an der Nordsee gestritten.*
Masculine | Feminine | Neuter | Plural
---|---|---|---
eines **schönen** Urlaubs | einer **teuren** Sonnencreme | eines **berühmten** Wattenmeers | keiner **ekligen** Würmer

### Genitive adjective endings after no article
This declension is common in the plural and relatively rare in the singular. It also applies after number words, with the exception of "ein". Usually the adjectives take the same endings as for definite articles. But masculine and neuter genitive endings in the singular are an exception because the "s" at the end of the noun already indicates the case. So in those instances, the adjective endings are once again "en".

Masculine | Feminine | Neuter | Plural
---|---|---|---
**schönen** Urlaubs | **teurer** Sonnencreme | **berühmten** Wattenmeers | **ekliger** Würmer