

# Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

## 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.

		Accusative	Adjective
<i>hoch:</i>	<i>Der Berg ist</i>	<b>500 Meter</b>	<i>hoch.</i>
<i>lang:</i>	<i>Die Insel ist</i>	<b>einen Kilometer</b>	<i>lang.</i>

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

		Accusative	Adjective
<i>wert:</i>	<i>Es war</i>	<b>einen Versuch</b>	<i>wert.</i>

# Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

## Dative adjectives

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

		Dative	Adjective
wichtig:	Das ist	<b>mir</b>	wichtig.
klar:	Das ist	<b>ihm</b>	klar.
peinlich:	Das ist	<b>mir</b>	peinlich.

## Genitive adjectives

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

		Adjective	Genitive
voll:	Das Wattenmeer ist	voll	<b>eklig</b> er 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 <b>eklig</b> er Würmer.
Preposition + dative	Das Wattenmeer ist voll <b>von</b> ekligen Würmern.

# Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

## 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.*

Masculine

des **schönen** Urlaubs

Feminine

der **teuren** Sonnencreme

Neuter

des **berühmten** Wattenmeers

Plural

der **ekligen** Würmer

### 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.*

# Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

Masculine

eines **schönen** *Urlaubs*

Feminine

einer **teuren** *Sonnencreme*

Neuter

eines **berühmten** *Wattenmeers*

Plural

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

**schönen** *Urlaubs*

Feminine

**teurer** *Sonnencreme*

Neuter

**berühmten** *Wattenmeers*

Plural

**ekligere** *Würmer*