

Introduction to the German Accusative Case

Sounds of the Accusative Case

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

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

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

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

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

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 Sounds for the Accusative Endings for the “ein” words:

masc	fem	neut	plur
-n	-e	-Ø	-e

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

masculine (— N)	feminine (— E)	neuter (— Ø)	plural (— E)	
einen	eine	einØ	n/a	<i>a / an (no plural)</i>
keinen	keine	keinØ	keine	<i>no / not a / not any</i>
meinen	meine	meinØ	meine	<i>my</i>
deinen	deine	deinØ	deine	<i>your</i>
seinen	seine	seinØ	seine	<i>his</i>

Personal Pronouns in the Accusative Case (The nominative forms are 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.

der word

prounoun

accusative ending

den	die	das	die
ihn	sie	es	sie
— N	— E	— S	— E

Declensional Endings on Nouns in the Accusative Case

Schwaches Maskulinum – Weak masculine ‘N’-nouns take the ending “N” (or “en”) in the accusative. The declensional ending “N” also applies to all cases outside the nominative. Compare the nominative to the other case forms with the following nouns.

<i>nominative</i>	<i>accusative</i>	<i>dative</i>	<i>genitive</i>	
der Student	den Student en	dem Student en	des Student en	the student
der Herr	den Herr n	dem Herr n	des Herr n	(the) mister, lord, sir
der Mensch	den Mensch en	dem Mensch en	des Mensch en	the person, human
der Nachbar	den Nachbar n	dem Nachbar n	des Nachbar n	the neighbor
der Junge	den Junge n	dem Junge n	des Junge n	the boy

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. (It I have.)

Object of Accusative Prepositions:

Ich wähle für den Kandidaten.

Für 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.

Sie essen ohne mich.

Hast du etwas gegen mich?

I’m voting for the candidate.

I’m voting for him. (For him vote I.)

We’re working for you guys.

The train is traveling through the tunnel. (Through the tunnel goes ...)

Are you going to the cinema without me?

These flowers are for my wife. (For my wife are these flowers.)

These flowers are for her.

They are eating without me.

Do you have something against me?