learning target

You have probably noticed that I added certain endings to the adjectives in the messages I sent you.

Today I want to make clear when you have to use which ending.

German	English
Sie hat eine nett**e** Schwester.	She's got a **nice** sister.
Deutsch**es** Brot schmeckt sehr gut.	**German** bread tastes very good.
Ich sehe den neu**en** Professor.	I see the **new** professor.

rules

How do you find out which ending you have to use?

All you have to do is to answer these 4 questions and to look for the right ending in the table.

- What kind of **article** has the noun? (definite | indefinite | none)
- Which **gender** does the noun have? (male | female | neutral)
- What's the **numerus** of the noun? (singual | plural)
- In which **case** is the noun? (nominative | genitive | dative | accusative)

example 1:

Die groß<u>e</u> Frau trägt einen Hut. (The tall woman is wearing a hut.)

Let's analyse the sentence. The noun we analyse is "Frau". The adjective which describes the woman is "groß".

- What kind of article has got the noun "Frau"? => **Die** => The noun has a definite article.
- What gender does the noun "Frau" have? => The gender of "Frau" is female.
- Which numerus has the noun "Frau"? => It is just one woman. So, it's singular.
- In which case is the noun "Frau"? => The woman is the subject of the sentence.
  She is doing something. So, "Frau" is in the nominative case.

Now let's have a look at the table for definite articles. Look for singular, female, nominative.

The ending is "e". So, it must be "die groß**e** Frau".

example 2:

Ein nett<u>er</u> Mann sitzt im Café. (A nice man is sitting in the cafe.)

- article: ein (indefinite article)
- gender: male
- numerus: singular
- case: nominative case

If you look for indefinite article, singular, male, nominative you'll find the ending "er".
So it must be "ein nett**er** Mann".

example 3:

Ich schreibe einen lang<u>en</u> Brief. (I write a long letter.)

The noun we have to consider here is "Brief" (word orer wrong) The adjective which describes the letter is "lang".

- article: einen (indefinite article)
- gender: Brief is male
- numerus: singular
- case: "Ich" is the subject of the sentence. "Ich" is in the nominative case.
  "Brief" is the direct object of the sentence. "Brief" is in the accusative case.

If you look for indefinite article, singular, male, accusative you'll find the ending "en".
So it must be "einen lang**en** Brief".

A way to cheat

If you are unsure which gender or case is required you can often recognize it with the help of the the article which precedes the adjective.

examples:

- Er kauft <u>das</u> neue **Handy**. => The article "das" shows that Handy is neutral.
- Ich mag <u>den</u> roten **Hut** nicht. => The article "den" shows that the Hut is male and in the accusative case.
  The same trick works with "einen, keinen, meinen... (all articels, pronouns, der-words which end with "en").
- Sie spielt mit <u>dem</u> kleinen **Kind**. => The article "dem" shows that the Kind is in the dative case.
  The same trick works with "einem, keinem, meinem... (all articels, pronouns, der-words which end with "em").

Other words which have the same function as arcticles

Besides the "normal" articles there are some words which have the same function as "normal" articles
They require you to put the correct ending at the end of the adjective as well.

All words which "work" like a <u>definite article</u>

German	English
der, die, das, den, dem	the
dieser, diese, dieses, diesen, diesem	this / these
jener, jene, jenes, jenen, jenem	that / those
jeder, jede, jedes, jeden, jedem	every / each
solcher, solche, solches, solchen, solchem	such
welcher, welche, welches, welchen, welchem	which
mancher, manche, manches, manchen, manchem	some
alle, beide	all / both

All words which "work" like an <u>indefinite article</u>

German	English
ein, eine, einen, einem, einer	a / an
kein, keine, keinen, keinem, keiner	no / none
mein, dein, sein, ihr, unser, euer, Ihr	my / your / his / her / our / your / Your

tables

declension of adjectives <u>without article</u>

case	singular			plural
	male	female	neuter	-
nominative	gut**er** Mann	gut**e** Frau	gut**es** Kind	gut**e** Familien
genitive	gut**en** Mann**es**	gut**er** Frau	gut**en** Kind**es**	gut**er** Familien
dative	gut**em** Mann	gut**er** Frau	gut**em** Kind	gut**en** Familien
accusative	gut**en** Mann	gut**e** Frau	gut**es** Kind	gut**e** Familien

declension of adjectives with <u>definite article</u> (der, die, das)

case	singular			plural
	male	female	neuter	-
nominative	der gut**e** Mann	die gut**e** Frau	das gut**e** Kind	die gut**en** Familien
genitive	des gut**en** Mann**es**	der gut**en** Frau	des gut**en** Kind**es**	der gut**en** Familien
dative	dem gut**en** Mann	der gut**en** Frau	dem gut**en** Kind	den gut**en** Familien
accusative	den gut**en** Mann	die gut**e** Frau	das gut**e** Kind	die gut**en** Familien

declension of adjectives with <u>indefinite article</u> (ein)

case	Singular			Plural
	male	female	neuter	-
nominative	ein gut**er** Mann	eine gut**e** Frau	ein gut**es** Kind	keine gut**en** Kinder *
genitive	eines gut**en** Mann**es**	einer gut**en** Frau	eines gut**en** Kind**es**	keiner gut**en** Kinder *
dative	einem gut**en** Mann	einer gut**en** Frau	einem gut**en** Kind	keinen gut**en** Kinder**n** *
accusative	einen gut**en** Mann	eine gut**e** Frau	ein gut**es** Kind	keine gut**en** Kinder *

* *kein* und *ein* behave the same. A plural form of "ein" doesn't exist. That's why I replaced it here by "kein".

As you already noticed not only the article changes. Some nouns get an additional ending as well.

For more details check the topic „**Deklination der Substantive**".