



components of a sentence

term	explanation	example
Adjektiv (<i>adjective</i>)	An "Adjektiv" is a word which describes a noun. It shows how something or somebody is.	Das Mädchen ist nett .
Adverb (<i>adverb</i>)	An "Adverb" is a word which describes a verb. It shows how something is done.	Der Junge geht schnell .
Artikel (<i>article</i>)	The "Artikel" is a kind of <i>companion</i> of the noun. It indicates which gender the noun belongs to. There are two types of articles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bestimmter Artikel (<i>definite article</i>): der, die, das - is used if you refer to a particular person or thing • unbestimmter Artikel (<i>indefinite article</i>): ein - is used if you refer to a person or thing but don't exactly specify their identity 	das Auto ein Auto
Konjunktion (<i>conjunction</i>)	"Konjunktionen" join together two or more sentences. There are two types of conjunctions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nebenordnende Konjunktion (<i>coordinating conjunction</i>): join two <i>independent</i> clauses • unterordnende Konjunktion (<i>subordinating conjunction</i>): join a <i>dependent</i> clause (subordinate clause) to an <i>independent</i> clause (main clause) 	examples: und, oder, aber, ... examples: dass, weil, als, ...



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Objekt (<i>object</i>)	<p>The "Objekt" is the not-acting person/thing in a sentence.</p> <p>There are three types of objects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Akkusativobjekt (<i>direct object</i>): receives the action done by the subject • Dativobjekt (<i>indirect object</i>): is the "beneficiary" of the action • Präpositionalobjekt (<i>object of a preposition</i>): is connected to the subject by a preposition 	<p>Er schickt dem Mädchen einen Brief.</p> <p>Er schickt dem Mädchen einen Brief.</p> <p>Er liegt auf dem Sofa.</p>
Partikel (<i>particle</i>)	"Partikel" are little <i>helping</i> words we use to emphasis something or make something sound less demanding, ...	doch, mal, bloß, wohl
Präposition (<i>preposition</i>)	"Präpositionen" are small words which connect a noun to another noun, verb or adjective. The preposition indicates their relationship, direction, location or function.	Der Mann lebt in Deutschland.
Pronomen (<i>pronoun</i>)	<p>There are several types of pronouns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personalpronomen (<i>personal pronoun</i>): replaces a noun or refers back to a noun which was mentioned before • Possessivpronomen (<i>possessive pronoun</i>): a word that shows to whom something belongs • Demonstrativpronomen (<i>demonstrative pronoun</i>): a word to point out a particular thing or person • Reflexivpronomen (<i>reflexive pronoun</i>): if subject and object (=here the pronoun) are the same person the pronoun is called "Reflexivpronomen". It reflects back to the noun. • Relativpronomen (<i>relative pronoun</i>): introduces a relative clause and refers back to the noun of the main sentence • Fragepronomen (<i>interrogative pronoun</i>): is a question word which is used to ask for a pronoun • Indefinitpronomen (<i>indefinite pronoun</i>): is a pronoun which refers to somebody or something in general - not a particular one 	<p>examples: ich, du, er/sie/es ...</p> <p>examples: mein, dein, sein, ...</p> <p>examples: dieser, jener</p> <p>examples: mir, mich, dir, dich, sich ...</p> <p>examples: der, den, welcher, ...</p> <p>examples: Wer?, Welcher?, Wessen?, ...</p> <p>examples: jeder, jemand, niemand, ...</p>



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Subjekt (<i>subject</i>)	The "Subjekt" is the acting person/thing in a sentence or it is just the subject-matter of the sentence.	Ich lese ein Buch. Cathy ist ein Mädchen.
Substantiv (<i>noun</i>)	A "Substantiv" is a person, place, thing, idea or animal. A noun is (almost) everything what you can touch.	Ich lese ein Buch .
Verb (<i>verb</i>)	<p>The "Verb" is the action of the sentence and describes what is done. Sometimes it describes the existence or happening of somebody/something. We distinguish verbs according to different points of view:</p> <p><i>according to their typ</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hauptverben (<i>main verbs</i>): can stand alone and make sense without other verbs • Hilfsverben (<i>helping verbs</i>): are used to form tenses, moods and voices • Modalverben (<i>modal verbs</i>): are verbs which modify the maining of the main verb to express permission, ability, ban, recommendation. Usually a modal verb doesn't make sense without the main verb. <p><i>according to their past forms</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • starke Verben (<i>strong verbs</i>): are irregular and change mostly their stem vowel in the "Präteritum" and "Partizip II" form • schwache Verben (<i>weak verbs</i>): are regular and their past forms follow a rule • gemischte Verben (<i>mixed verbs</i>): behave like strong verbs and weak verbs <p><i>according to their prefix</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trennbare Verben (<i>separable verbs</i>): the prefix spilts up in certain situations • untrennbare Verben (<i>inseparable verbs</i>): the prefix never splits up from the stem • Dualverben (<i>dual verbs</i>): are separable or inseparable depending on the meaning 	<p>Ich lese ein Buch. Ich bin ein Mann.</p> <p>examples: lesen, schreiben, gehen, ... examples: haben, sein, werden examples: können, müssen, dürfen, ...</p> <p>example: lesen/las/gelesen</p> <p>example: kaufen/kaufte/gekauft example: rennen/rannte/gerannt</p> <p>example: fernsehen example: verstehen example: übersetzen</p>



other important grammar terms

term	explanation	example
<p>Fall (<i>case</i>)</p>	<p>The "Fall" (=Kasus) is a <i>tool</i> to explain the role of a person/thing in a sentence. The case shows in which relation the person/thing is to the other words. The case itself is no word. It's a fictional <i>thing</i> which helps to choose e.g. the correct ending of an adjective.</p> <p>There are four cases in the German language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominativ (<i>nominative</i>) is used for the subject/predicate complement • Genitiv (<i>genitive</i>) is used to express ownership/possession • Dativ (<i>dative</i>) is used for the indirect object • Akkusativ (<i>accusative</i>) is used for the direct object <p>The role of a noun in a sentence is one indicator for the case. Other indicators are certain prepositions, verbs and adjectives.</p>	<p>der Mann des Mannes dem Mann den Mann</p> <p>für, um, bis,... (accusative prepositions) mit, nach, von, zu,... (dative prepositions) wegen, während ,... (genitive prepositions)</p>
<p>Genus Verbi (<i>voice</i>)</p>	<p>The "Genus Verbi" is a feature of a verb to focus on either the person/thing who does something (=subject) or the process what is done (verb).</p> <p>There are two "voices" in the German language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aktiv (<i>active voice</i>) is used if the focus is on the subject = It's important who does something • Passiv (<i>passive voice</i>) is used if the focus is on the verb = It's not important who does something 	<p>Tom schrieb ein Buch (Tom wrote a book.)</p> <p>Ein Buch wurde geschrieben. (A book was written.)</p>



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Geschlecht (<i>gender</i>)	<p>In addition to the natural (biological) gender every noun has got a grammatical gender which often differs from the biological gender.</p> <p>There are three gender in the German language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • männlich (<i>male</i>) indicated by the definite article <i>der</i> • weiblich (<i>female</i>) indicated by the definite article <i>die</i> • sächlich (<i>neuter</i>) indicated by the definite article <i>das</i> 	<p>der Mann die Frau das Kind</p>
Modus (<i>mood</i>)	<p>The "Modus" is a feature of a verb that shows the relationship of a verb with the reality and its intent.</p> <p>There are three moods in the German language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indikativ (<i>indicative</i>) to speak about everything what really happens • Konjunktiv (<i>subjunctive</i>) to speak about fictional/unreal things • Imperativ (<i>imperative</i>) to make a requestion or give a command 	<p>Er ist hier. Ich wünschte, er wäre hier. Sei um 8.00 Uhr hier!</p>
Numerus (<i>number</i>)	<p>The "Numerus" is a term to describe how many persons/things are involed in the action.</p> <p>There are two forms in the German language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Singular (<i>singular</i>) is used for one person/thing • Plural (<i>plural</i>) is used for two or more persons/things 	<p>Ich habe ein Auto. Wir haben zwei Autos.</p>



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<p>Person (<i>person</i>)</p>	<p>The "Person" is a term to describe the <i>point of view</i> in a sentence.</p> <p>There are three "persons" in the German language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Person (<i>1st person</i>) is used when the speaker(s) is the one who does something in the sentence • 2. Person (<i>2nd person</i>) is used if the person to whom the sentence is addressed does something in the sentence • 3. Person (<i>3rd person</i>) is used when the person you and your counterpart speak about does something 	<p>ich, wir</p> <p>du, ihr</p> <p>er/sie/es, sie (pl.)</p>
<p>Zeitform (<i>tense</i>)</p>	<p>The "Zeitform" is a feature of a verb to express when something happens.</p> <p>There are six tenses in the German language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Präsens (<i>present</i>) to speak about current events • Präteritum (=Imperfekt) (<i>simple past</i>) to speak about past events • Perfekt (<i>present perfect</i>) to speak about past events • Plusquamperfekt (<i>past perfect</i>) to speak about an event in the past which had happened before an event in the past • Futur I (<i>future</i>) to speak about future events • Futur II (<i>future perfect</i>) to speak about future events which will be finished by a certain time in the future 	<p>ich sehe (I see)</p> <p>ich sah (I saw)</p> <p>ich habe gesehen (I have seen)</p> <p>ich hatte gesehen (I had seen)</p> <p>ich werde sehen (I will see)</p> <p>ich werde gesehen haben (I will have seen)</p>



"procedures" in the German grammar

term	explanation	example
Deklination (<i>declension</i>)	The "Deklination" is a <i>procedure</i> we use to change nouns, pronouns and the endings of adjectives according to their <i>case, number</i> and <i>gender</i> .	eine schöne Frau einer schönen Frau
Konjugation (<i>conjugation</i>)	The "Konjugation" is a <i>procedure</i> we use to change verbs according to their <i>number, person, mood, tense</i> and <i>voice</i> .	ich gehe du gehst er/sie/es geht ...
Steigerung (<i>comparison</i>)	The "Steigerung" is a <i>procedure</i> we use to "uplift adjectives on a higher/stronger level". There are three "levels" of an adjective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positiv (<i>positive</i>) • Komparativ (<i>comparative</i>) • Superlativ (<i>superlative</i>) 	nett netter am nettesten