



components of a sentence

term	explanation	example
Adjektiv (adjective)	An "Adjektiv" is a word which describes a noun. It shows how something or somebody is.	Das Mädchen ist nett .
Adverb (adverb)	An "Adverb" is a word which describes a verb. It shows how something is done.	Der Junge geht schnell .
Artikel (article)	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:	
	 bestimmter Artikel (definite article): der, die, das - is used if you refer to a particular person or thing unbestimmter Artikel (indefinite article): ein - is used if you refer to a person or thing but don't exactly specify their identity 	das Auto ein Auto
Konjunktion (conjunction)	"Konjunktionen" join together two or more sentences.	
	 There are two types of conjunctions: nebenordnende Konjunktion (coordinating conjunction): join two independent clauses unterordnende Konjunktion (subordinating conjunction): join a dependent clause (subordinate clause) to an independent clause (main clause) 	examples: und, oder, aber, examples: dass, weil, als,





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Objekt (object)	The "Objekt" is the not-acting person/thing in a sentence. There are three types of objects:	
	 Akkusativobjekt (direct object): receives the action done by the subject Dativobjekt (indirect object): is the "beneficiary" of the action Präpositionalobjekt (object of a preposition): is connected to the subject by a preposition 	Er schickt dem Mädchen einen Brief. Er schickt dem Mädchen einen Brief. Er liegt <i>auf</i> dem Sofa.
Partikel (particle)	"Partikel" are little <i>helping</i> words we use to emphasis something or make something sound less demanding,	doch, mal, bloß, wohl
Präposition (preposition)	"Präpositionen" are small words which connect a noun to another noun, verb or adjective. The prepostion indicates their relationhip, direction, location or function.	Der Mann lebt in Deutschland.
Pronomen (pronoun)	 Personalpronomen (personal pronoun): replaces a noun or refers back to a noun which was mentioned before Possessivpronomen (possessive pronoun): a word that shows to whom something belongs Demonstrativpronomen (demonstrative pronoun): a word to point out a particular thing or person Reflexivpronomen (reflexive pronoun): if subject and object (=here the pronoun) are the same person the pronoun is called "Reflexivpronomen". It reflects back to the noun. Relativpronomen (relative pronoun): introduces a relative clause and refers back to the noun of the main sentence Fragepronomen (interrogative pronoun): is a question word which is used to ask for a pronoun Indefinitpronomen (indefinite pronoun): is a pronoun which refers to somebody or something in general - not a particular one 	examples: ich, du, er/sie/es examples: mein, dein, sein, examples: dieser, jener examples: mir, mich, dir, dich, sich examples: der, den, welcher, examples: Wer?, Welcher?, Wessen?, examples: jeder, jemand, niemand,





term	explanation	example
Subjekt (subject)	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 (noun)	A "Substantiv" is a person, place, thing, idea or animal. A noun is (almost) everything what you can touch.	Ich lese ein Buch.
Verb (verb)	The "Verb" is the action of the sentence and describes what is done. Sometimes it discribes the existence or happening of somebody/something. We distinguish verbs according to different points of view:	Ich lese ein Buch. Ich bin ein Mann.
	 according to their typ Hauptverben (main verbs): can stand alone and make sense without other verbs Hilfsverben (helping verbs): are used to form tenses, moods and voices Modalverben (modal verbs): 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. 	examples: lesen, schreiben, gehen, examples: haben, sein, werden examples: können, müssen, dürfen,
	 starke Verben (strong verbs): are irregular and change mostly their stem vowel in the "Präteritum" and "Partizip II" form schwache Verben (weak verbs): are regular and their past forms follow a rule gemischte Verben (mixed verbs): behave like strong verbs and weak verbs 	example: lesen/las/gelesen example: kaufen/kaufte/gekauft example: rennen/rannte/gerannt
	 according to their prefix trennbare Verben (separable verbs): the prefix spilts up in certain situations untrennbare Verben (inseparable verbs): the prefix never splits up from the stem Dualverben (dual verbs): are separable or inseparable depending on the meaning 	example: fernsehen example: verstehen example: übersetzen





other important grammar terms

term	explanation	example
Fall (case)	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.	
	 Nominativ (nominative) is used for the subject/predicate complement Genitiv (genitive) is used to express ownership/possession Dativ (dative) is used for the indirect object Akkusativ (accusative) is used for the direct object The role of a noun in a sentence is one indicator for the case. Other indicators are certain prepositions, verbs and adjectives. 	der Mann des Mannes dem Mann den Mann für, um, bis, (accusative prepositions) mit, nach, von, zu, (dative prepositions) wegen, während , (genitive prepositions)
Genus Verbi (voice)	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). There are two "voices" in the German language: • Aktiv (active voice) is used if the focus is on the subject = It's important who does something • Passiv (passive voice) is used if the focus is on the verb = It's not important who does something	Tom schrieb ein Buch (Tom wrote a book.) Ein Buch wurde geschrieben. (A book was written.)





term	explanation	example
Geschlecht (gender)	In addition to the natural (biological) gender every noun has got a grammatical gender which often differs from the biological gender.	
	There are three gender in the German language: männlich (male) indicated by the definite article der weiblich (female) indicated by the definite article die sächlich (neuter) indicated by the definite article das 	der Mann die Frau das Kind
Modus (mood)	The "Modus" is a feature of a verb that shows the relationship of a verb with the reality and its intent.	
	 There are three moods in the German language: Indikativ (indicative) to speak about everything what really happens Konjunktiv (subjunctive) to speak about fictional/unreal things Imperativ (imperative) to make a requestion or give a command 	Er ist hier. Ich wünschte, er wäre hier. Sei um 8.00 Uhr hier!
Numerus (number)	The "Numerus" is a term to describe how many persons/things are involed in the action. There are two forms in the German language: • Singular (singluar) is used for one person/thing	Ich habe ein Auto.
	Plural (plural) is used for two or more persons/things	Wir haben zwei Autos.





term	explanation	example
Person (person)	The "Person" is a term to describe the <i>point of view</i> in a sentence.	
	 There are three "persons" in the German language: 1. Person (1st person) is used when the speaker(s) is the one who does something in the sentence 	ich, wir
	• 2. Person (2 nd person) is used if the person to whom the sentence is addressed does something in the sentence	du, ihr
	3. Person (3 rd person) is used when the person you and your counterpart speak about does something	er/sie/es, sie (pl.)
Zeitform (tense)	The "Zeitform" is a feature of a verb to express when something happens.	
	There are six tenses in the German language:	
	Präsens (present) to speak about current events	ich sehe (I see)
	Präteritum (=Imperfekt) (simple past) to speak about past events	ich sah (I saw)
	Perfekt (present perfect) to speak about past events	ich habe gesehen (I have seen)
	Plusquamperfekt (past perfect) to speak about an event in the past which had happened before an event in the past	ich hatte gesehen (I had seen)
	Futur I (future) to speak about future events	ich werde sehen (I will see)
	Futur II (future perfect) to speak about future events which will be finished by a certain time in the future	ich werde gesehen haben (I will have seen)





"procedures" in the German grammar

term	explanation	example
Deklination (declension)	The "Deklination" is a <i>procedure</i> we use to change nouns, pronouns and the endinings of adjectives according to their <i>case</i> , <i>number</i> and <i>gender</i> .	ein e schön e Frau ein er schön en Frau
Konjugation (conjugation)	The "Konjugation" is a <i>procedure</i> we use to change verbs according to their <i>number</i> , person, mood, tense and voice.	ich gehe du gehst er/sie/es geht
Steigerung (comparison)	The "Steigerung" is a procedure we use to "uplift adjectives on a higher/stronger level". There are three "levels" of an adjective: Positiv (positive) Komparativ (comparative) Superlativ (superlative)	nett netter am nettesten