



I prepared this extra topic because I noticed that my gwapa has difficulties in the identification of the single parts of a sentence. This is, however, important that you are able to handle the cases and many other topics.

That's why let's speak at first which components we can have in a sentence:

example 1:

The woman kisses a man.

Die Frau küsst einen Mann.



1: definite article

The definite article belongs to nouns and shows us in German which grammatical gender the noun has. We use a definite article if we mean a certain noun (woman) and not any noun (woman).

2: subject

The is the acting person/thing in a sentence. The woman is doing something. She kisses.

3: verb

The verb is the action verb. It says what the subject does.

4: indefinite article

The indefinite article belongs to nouns and shows us in German which grammatical gender the noun has. We use an indefinite article if we mean not a certain noun (man).

5: direct object

The direct object is the not-acting person/thing in a sentence. The man is kissed by the woman.

example 2:

The woman gives a book to the child.

Die Frau gibt dem Kind ein Buch.



1: definite article: see above (belongs to the subject)

2: subject: see above

3: verb: see above

4: definite article: see above (belongs to the indirect object)

5: indirect object

The indirect object is the beneficiary of the action in the sentence. Usually it's a person. You can also say the indirect object is the receiver of the direct object

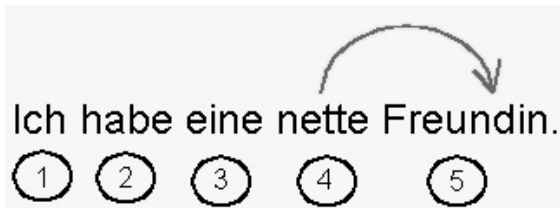
6: indefinite article: see above (belongs to the direct object)

7: direct object: see above



example 3:

I have a nice girlfriend.



1: subject: see above

2: verb: see above

3: indefinite article: see above (belongs to the direct object)

4: adjective

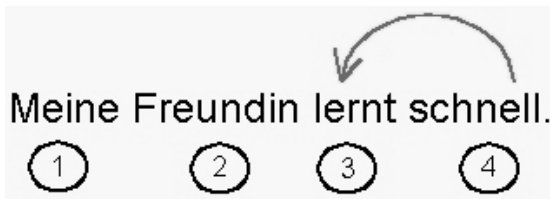
An adjective is a word which describes a noun.

How is my girlfriend? => nice!

5: direct object: see above

example 4:

My girlfriend learns fast.



1: possessive pronoun

A possessive pronoun is a special pronoun which shows to whom or what the noun belongs.

Here the noun "Freundin" belongs to me.

2: subject: see above

3: verb: see above

4: adverb

An adverb is a word which describes a verb.

How does my girlfriend learn? => fast!

example 5:

I'll fly to Cagayan tomorrow.



1: subject: see above

2: verb: see above

3: time expression

As the name already describes the time expression says when something happens.



4: preposition

Prepositions are "relationship words".

They express time, location, causal ... relationships between people and things.

"Nach" is a typical "local preposition".

5: location

The name of the location is here "Cagayan".

example 6:

Cathy is a girl.

Cathy ist ein Mädchen.

① ② ③ ④

1: subject: see above

2: verb: see above

3: indefinite article: see above

4: predicate complement

The verb is a form of "be". The "ist" acts like an equal sign. You could say: Cathy = a girl.

That's why "Cathy" and "girl" are the subject and both are in the nominative case.

example 7:

Joy and Kristine go to the cinema.

Joy und Kristine gehen ins Kino.

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥

1: subject: see above

2: conjunction: A conjunction connects two or more parts of a sentence.

Here "und" connects the both subjects.

3: subject: This sentence has 2 subjects. Both girl do something so they are both subjects.

4: verb: see above

5: preposition

"Ins" is a special prepositions because actually it's a preposition and a definite article

"ins" is a short form of "in das".

6: location: see above

example 8:

Why do you learn German?

Warum lernst du Deutsch?

① ② ③ ④



1: question word: question words ask for a reason, a time, a location, a person and so on.

2: verb: see above

3: subject: see above

4: direct object: see above

example 9:

When do you go?

Wann gehst du?

1 2 3

1: question word: see above

2: verb: see above

3: subject: see above

example 10:

Give me a kiss!

Gib mir einen Kuss!

1 2 3 4

1: verb: see above

2: indirect object: see above

3: indefinite article: see above

4: direct object: see above

example 11:

Ich vermisse Cathy und ihre Freunde.

Ich vermisse Cathy und ihre Freunde.

1 2 3 4 5 6

1: subject: see above

2: verb: see above

3: direct object: see above

4: conjunction: see above

5: possessive pronoun: see above

6: direct object: see above



example 12:

Germany has 16 "Bundesländer".

Deutschland hat 12 Bundesländer.



1: subject: see above

2: verb: see above

3: number: how many of something

4: direct object: see above

summary

1.) Every sentence contains a subject (statements and questions).
The only exception are imperative sentences (see example 10).

2.) It might be that one sentence has 2 or more subjects (see example 7).

3.) Not every sentence contains an object. Many sentences don't have any object (see examples 4, 5, 6, 7, 9).

4.) Some sentences contain even more than one object (see example 11).

5.) The components of a sentence we learnt so far are:

- subject
- verb
- direct object
- indirect object
- predicate complement
- adjective
- adverb
- personal pronoun
- possessive pronoun
- demonstrative pronoun
- definite article
- indefinite article
- preposition
- conjunction
- particle
- question word
- time expression
- location
- number