

GRAMMAR A2 EINHEIT 1

The first point of grammar introduced in this unit are the dative personal pronouns (*Personalpronomen im Dativ*). So far you have learned two uses of the dative ó after certain prepositions and indirect objects. In this unit you will learn the object of certain verbs must be in the dative case. Let's take a look at the personal pronouns.

<u>Nominative</u>	<u>Accusative</u>	<u>Dative</u>
<i>ich</i>	<i>mich</i>	<i>mir</i>
<i>du</i>	<i>dich</i>	<i>dir</i>
<i>er, sie, es</i>	<i>ihn, sie, es</i>	<i>ihm, ihr, ihm</i>
<i>wir</i>	<i>uns</i>	<i>uns</i>
<i>ihr</i>	<i>euch</i>	<i>euch</i>
<i>sie, Sie</i>	<i>sie, Sie</i>	<i>ihnen, Ihnen</i>

The list of verbs that require a dative object is quite lengthy. In this unit you learn how to use *antworten, gefallen, gehen, gehören, glauben, helfen, schmecken, stehen, and vertrauen*. You also learn that although *erzählen, sagen, geben, and schenken* aren't dative verbs, their use almost always includes a dative object

Er antwortet mir nie. ó He never answers me. *Hilf mir, bitte!* ó Help me, please.
Ich kann ihnen vertrauen. ó I can trust them. *Glaubst du mir nicht?* ó Don't you believe me?
Das Buch gehört mir nicht. The book doesn't belong to me. *Wie schmeckt dir der Fisch?* ó How does the fish taste (to you)? *Der schmeckt mir überhaupt nicht.* ó I don't like it (the taste) at all.

Antworten is only followed by the dative case when the object is a person. *Er antwortet meine Fragen nie.* *Gehen* (to go) and *stehen* (to stand) normally have no objects whatsoever. Think about it. You can't go or stand anything. However, have other meanings or uses which require dative objects. When describing one's state of being *gehen* takes a dative object. *Wie geht es Ihnen? Mir geht's gut und meiner Mutter geht es auch gut.* *Stehen* is used to describe how something looks on somebody. When it has this meaning, it is followed by the dative. *Wie steht mir die Jacke? Sie steht dir überhaupt nicht.*

When you say or tell something you have to say or tell it to someone. That someone effectively becomes the indirect object and must be in the dative case. Likewise, when you give something to someone that something is the direct object and the someone is the dative indirect object. *Das habe ich ihm schon gesagt* (I've already told him that). *Hast du ihr alles erzählt?* (Have you told her everything?). *Gib mir dein ganzes Geld!* (Give me all your money). *Was schenkst du ihnen zu Weihnachten?* (What are you giving (as a gift) them for Christmas?)

Gefallen (to like, or to be pleasing to) is a very important dative verb that requires a special explanation on how to use it. *Sein neues Auto gefällt mir* means, I like his new car. Notice, *Auto* is the subject of the German sentence but *car* is the direct object of

the English translation. Likewise, *mir* is the dative direct object of the German sentence yet translates as *me*, the subject of the English sentence. The whole thing makes grammatical sense if you translate the sentence as, *His new car is pleasing to me.* Because nobody would say that, we have to translate into something that conveys the correct meaning and is usable in English. Look at more examples using *gefallen*.

Gefällt dir das Zimmer? Do you like the room?

Die Fahrt durch die Berge hat uns gefallen? We liked the ride through the mountains.

Die Berge haben meinem Vater besonders gut gefallen. My father really liked the mountains.

Notice in the last sentence above that the German verb is plural because the subject is *die Berge* whereas the subject and verb of the English sentence are singular.

The next point of grammar introduced in this unit is the use of the subordinating conjunction, *dass*. In a subordinate clause (*Nebensatz*) the verb is moved from its normal second element position and appears at the end of the clause. - *Hast du gewusst, dass Monika heute Abend mit Fritz ins Kino gehen will? Glaubst du, dass er mitgeht?*