

## A2 EINHEIT 7 GRAMMAR

In this unit you will learn one point of grammar ó adjective endings in the nominative and accusative case.

Up until now you have used descriptive adjectives solely as predicate adjectives ó *Der Deutschlehrer ist alt. Meine Freundin ist intelligent.* These adjectives refer to nouns but don't modify them. Every time an adjective modifies a noun it has to have an ending. The ending you choose depends on the gender, number, and case of the modified noun and the word before the adjective.

Every gender/case combination in German has a letter or letters you associate with it. Those letters are reflective of the definite article. For example, the letter(s) one associates with masculine/nominative is/are *(e)r*. One associates *(e)n* with masculine accusative, *(e)s* with neuter nominative and accusative, and *e* with feminine and plural.

Every time a noun in the nominative or accusative case is preceded by a descriptive adjective the noun must be preceded by the gender/case letter indicated above. If the letter(s) can't be found as an ending on the word before the descriptive adjective, the ending must be put on the adjective. If the ending is on the word before the adjective, the adjective gets an *e* or *en* ending depending on case and gender. Let's consider the following examples:

Is that your new hat? - *Ist das dein neuer Hut?* How did you know to put an *er* on the end of *neu*? The verb is *sein*. That means *Hut* is in the nominative case. *Hut* is a *der* word ó masculine. One associates *(e)r* with nominative masculine. Look to the word in front of *neu*. *Dein* does not have an ending ó it has no *er* ó so you must put the *er* on the end of *neu*. If we had used *das Kleid* instead of *der Hut*, the sentence would reflect the neuter gender ó *Ist das dein neues Kleid?*

There is still one question left unanswered. What ending do you use if the word in front of the descriptive adjective has the gender/case marker ending? The ending will be either *e* or *en* ó depending on gender, number, and case. Plurals are always *en*. Nominative singular is always *e*. Masculine accusative is *en*. Feminine and neuter accusative remain *e*. In some ways it's like the definite articles. Masculine accusative *der* changes to *den*. *Die* and *das* remain the same. Make sure you understand how the following examples are consistent with the explanation given above.

*Wo ist mein gestreifter Pullover? Ich suche meinen gestreiften Pullover. Hier ist der gestreifte Pullover. Ich kaufe keinen gestreiften Pullover. Er sucht die neue Mütze. Du brauchst eine neue Mütze. Ich kann meine neuen Stiefel nicht finden. Ich kaufe das rote Kleid. Ich kaufe ein rotes Kleid. Ihr alter Hund ist weg. Sie will keinen anderen Hund.*

As you can see, it is important to know your *ein* word endings if you want to use adjective endings correctly.

