

A2 EINHEIT 8 GRAMMAR

In this unit you are introduced to only one point of grammar – possessive adjectives in the dative case (*Possessivartikel im Dativ*).

Before we cover the dative forms of the possessive adjectives let's go over the primary uses of the dative. Indirect objects are in the dative case. There are a host of prepositions whose objects are always in the dative case. There is also a category of prepositions called two-way prepositions (*Wechselpräpositionen*). They are followed by the dative or the accusative depending on whether the verb in the sentence answers the question *wo* or *wohin*. Finally, there are several verbs that don't have accusative objects but instead have objects in the dative case.

Possessive adjectives that modify singular masculine and neuter nouns in the dative case get an *em* ending. Those that modify singular feminine nouns get an *er*. A possessive adjective that modifies a plural noun in the dative case gets an *en* ending. If the plural form of the dative object noun does not already end in *n* it gets an *n* added to the plural form in the dative case (unless the plural ends in *s*). Look at the following dative case forms:

Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Plural
<i>meinem Vater</i>	<i>deiner Mutter</i>	<i>unserem Haus</i>	<i>seinen Häusern</i> (plural form is <i>Häuser</i>)

The verbs with dative objects emphasized in this unit are *schmecken*, *gehen*, *gehören*, *stehen*, and *gefallen*. They function as in the examples below:

*Der Fisch schmeckt meiner Mutter überhaupt nicht. Meinem Vater schmeckt er auch nicht.
Gehört das Buch deiner Schwester oder deinem Bruder? Es gehört meinen Eltern.*

The primary prepositions always followed by the dative case are *aus*, *außer* (outside of, except for), *bei*, *mit*, *nach*, *seit*, *von*, *zu* and *an ... vorbei*. Look at the examples:

*Wir kommen mit unseren Eltern. Ich gehe jetzt an seinem Haus vorbei.
Das habe ich von deinem Vater gehört. Außer meiner Mutter kennt mich keiner hier.*

Wechselpräpositionen will be dealt with in a later unit. However, you will see one you have already dealt with several, e.g., *in*. Remember *in den Park* and *ins Kino*? If *in* translates as "to" or can reasonably be translated as "into" it is followed by the accusative case. This is because these phrases answer the question *wohin*. If they answer the question *wo*, two-way prepositions are followed by the dative.

Wo ist dein Hund? In meinem Haus. Wo wartet Monika auf uns? In dem Park.

Schenken (to give as a gift) is also listed as a dative verb. Actually, it isn't. It's a verb that will always have an accusative direct object and a dative indirect object. Don't forget; indirect objects (to whom or for whom is the direct object being verbed) are dative. *Ich schenke meinem Bruder ein neues Radio.* Another verb which commonly requires an indirect object is *geben*.

Remember, "I've **sinned**, I've sinned. I **od**(eed) and was **dead on arrival**." – SIN IOD DOA = subject is nominative, indirect object dative, direct object accusative

