# English Grammar for Students of German

*The Study Guide*
*For Those Learning German*

*Seventh Edition*

*Cecile Zorach*
*Adam Oberlin*

NEW FORMAT

GERMAN

# English Grammar for Students of German

*The Study Guide for Those Learning German*

*Seventh Edition*

***Cecile Zorach***
*Franklin and Marshall College*

***Adam Oberlin***
*Princeton University*

The Olivia and Hill Press®

**THE O&H STUDY GUIDES**

**Jacqueline Morton, editor**

*English Grammar for Students of Spanish*
*English Grammar for Students of French*
*English Grammar for Students of German*
*English Grammar for Students of Italian*
*English Grammar for Students of Latin*
*English Grammar for Students of Russian*
*English Grammar for Students of Japanese*
*English Grammar for Students of Arabic*
*English Grammar for Students of Chinese*
*Gramática española para estudiantes de inglés*

© 2022, The Olivia and Hill Press

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Printed in the U.S.A.

ISBN: 978-0-934034-5-55

Library of Congress Control Number: 2021918262

# CONTENTS


**Let's Get Started** 1

Tips for learning vocabulary 2
Tips for learning word forms 4
Tips for effective study 5

**1. What's in a Word?** 6

1.1 Meaning 6
1.2 Part of speech 7
1.3 Function 7
1.4 Form 8

**2. What is a Noun?** 9

2.1 In English 9
2.2 In German 10
2.3 Terms used to talk about nouns 10
Review activity 10

**3. What are Prefixes and Suffixes?** 11

3.1 In English 11
Nouns formed with prefixes 11
Verbs formed with prefixes 12
3.2 In German 12
Nouns formed with suffixes 12
Verbs formed with prefixes 13
Study tips — prefixes and suffixes 14
Review activity 15

**4. What is Meant by Number?** 16

4.1 In English 16
4.2 In German 16
Study tips — nouns and their number 17
Review activity 19

**5. What is Meant by Gender?** 20

5.1 In English 20
5.2 In German 21
Study tips — nouns and their gender 22
Review activity 24

**6. What is an Article?** 25

6.1 Definite articles 25
6.2 Indefinite articles 26
Study tips — nouns and articles 27
Review activity 28

**7. What is a Verb?** 29

7.1 In English 29
7.2 In German 30
7.3 Terms used to talk about verbs 31
Review activity 31

**8. What is Meant By Case?** 32

8.1 Function of words 32
8.2 In English 33

8.3 In German 34
8.4 Summary 37
Study tips — case 37

**9. What is a Pronoun? 38**

9.1 In English 38
9.2 In German 39
Review activity 39

**10. What is a Personal Pronoun? 40**

10.1 In English 40
10.2 In German 41
10.3 "You" 41
10.4 "It" 42
Study tips — personal pronouns 44

**11. What is a Subject? 45**

11.1 In English 45
11.2 In German 45

**12. What is a Subject Pronoun? 46**

12.1 In English 46
12.2 In German 46
Review activity 47

**13. What is a Predicate Noun? 48**

13.1 In English 48
13.2 In German 48
Study tips — predicate nouns 49
Review activity 49

**14. What is a Verb Conjugation? 50**

14.1 In English 50
14.2 In German 50
Categories of German verbs 51
How to conjugate a verb 52
Choosing the correct "person" 52
Study tips — verb conjugations 55
Review activity 58

**15. What is Meant by Tense? 59**

15.1 In English 59
15.2 In German 60

**16. What is the Present Tense? 61**

16.1 In English 61
16.2 In German 61
Review activity 62

**17. What is an Object? 63**

17.1 Direct object 63
17.2 Indirect object 65
17.3 Sentences with a direct and indirect object 66
Review activity 67

**18. What are Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns? 68**
18.1 In English 68
18.2 In German 69
Familiar "you" as object pronoun 69
Formal "you" as object pronoun 70
"It" as object pronoun 70
Study tips — direct and indirect object pronouns 72
Review activity 73

**19. What is a Preposition? 74**
19.1 In English 74
19.2 In German 75
Two-way prepositions 75
19.3 Position of a preposition and its object 76
19.4 Preposition or separable prefix? 77
Study tips — prepositions 78
Review activity 79

**20. What is an Object of Preposition Pronoun? 80**
20.1 In English 80
20.2 In German 80
Referring to a person 80
Referring to a thing 81
Study tips — object of preposition pronouns 82
Review activity 82

**21. What are the Principal Parts of A Verb? 83**
21.1 In English 83
21.2 In German 83
Weak (regular) verbs 84
Strong (irregular) verbs 84
Stem-changing verbs 85
Mixed-verbs 85
Study tips — principal parts 86
Review activity 87

**22. What is an Auxiliary Verb? 88**
22.1 In English 88
22.2 In German 89
Auxiliary verbs 89
Modals 90
Study tips — auxiliary verbs 91
Review activity 92

**23. What are Reflexive Pronouns and Verbs? 93**
23.1 In English 93
23.2 In German 94
Reflexive pronouns 94
Reflexive verbs 95
23.3 Reciprocal action 97
Study tips — reflexive pronouns and verbs 98
Review activity 98

**24. What is the Future Tense?** **99**
24.1 In English 99
24.2 In German 99
24.3 Future of probability 100
Review activity 101

**25. What is the Past Tense?** **102**
25.1 In English 102
25.2 In German 102
Study tips — past tense 104
Review activity 105

**26. What is a Participle?** **106**
26.1 Present participle 106
26.2 Past participle 107
26.3 Present participle vs gerund 109
Study tips — participles 111
Review activity 111

**27. What is the Past Perfect Tense?** **112**
27.1 In English 112
27.2 In German 112

**28. What is the Future Perfect Tense?** **114**
28.1 In English 114
28.2 In German 114

**29. What is an Adjective?** **116**
29.1 In English 116
29.2 In German 116

**30. What is a Descriptive Adjective?** **117**
30.1 In English 117
30.2 In German 118
Predicate adjectives 118
Attributive adjectives 118
Study tips — descriptive adjectives 120
Review activity 121

**31. What is Meant By Comparison of Adjectives?** **122**
31.1 Comparative 122
31.2 Superlative 124
Study tips — comparative adjectives 126
Review activity 126

**32. What is the Possessive?** **127**
32.1 In English 127
32.2 In German 128
Review activity 130

**33. What is a Possessive Adjective?** **131**
33.1 In English 131
33.2 In German 131

Study tips — possessive adjectives 133
Review activity 133

**34. What is a Possessive Pronoun? 134**

34.1 In English 134
34.2 In German 134
Review activity 135

**35. What is an Interrogative Adjective? 136**

35.1 In English 136
35.2 In German 136
Interrogative adjective as object of a preposition 137
Review activity 138

**36. What is an Interrogative Pronoun? 139**

36.1 Referring to a person 139
36.2 Referring to a thing 141
36.3 Summary 142
Study tips — interrogative pronouns 143
Review activity 144

**37. What is a Demonstrative Adjective? 145**

37.1 In English 145
37.2 In German 145
Review activity 146

**38. What is a Demonstrative Pronoun? 147**

38.1 In English 147
38.2 In German 147

**39. What is a Sentence? 149**

39.1 Simple sentences 149
39.2 Compound sentences 150
39.3 Complex sentences 151
Study tips — sentences 153
Review activity 154

**40. What are Affirmative and Negative Sentences? 155**

40.1 In English 155
40.2 In German 155
40.3 Negative words 157

**41. What are Declarative and Interrogative Sentences 158**

41.1 In English 158
41.2 In German 159
41.3 Tag questions 159

**42. What is a Conjunction? 161**

42.1 In English 161
42.2 In German 162
42.3 Preposition or conjunction? 162
Study tips — conjunctions 164
Review activity 164

# WHAT ARE PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES? 3

A **PREFIX** consists of one or more syllables added to the beginning of a word to change that word's meaning.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| nuclear | → | *anti*nuclear |
| approve | → | *dis*approve |
| negotiate | → | *re*negotiate |

A **SUFFIX** consists of one or more syllables added to the end of a word to change that word into a different part of speech (Word, p. 7).

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| gentle (adjective) | → | gentle*ness* (noun) |
| love (noun) | → | lov*able* (adjective) |
| establish (verb) | → | establish*ment* (noun) |
| deep (adjective) | → | dep*th* (noun) |

To see how prefixes and suffixes work, look at the various English words that come from the Latin verb **duco** *(to lead)*. Different prefixes give us verbs such as *in*duce, *re*duce, *se*duce, *pro*duce, and *intro*duce. Added suffixes result in different parts of speech, for example: induc*tion* (noun), induc*tive* (adjective), induc*tively* (adverb).

## 3.1 IN ENGLISH

Many English prefixes and suffixes come from Latin and Greek, and some are of native Germanic origin. A good English dictionary will tell you the meaning and function of the various prefixes and suffixes.

Knowing English suffixes can help you identify the parts of speech in a sentence and increase your English vocabulary.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| -able, -ible | toler*able* | → | adjective |
| -ly | quick*ly* | → | adverb |
| -ence, -ance | reli*ance* | → | noun |

### NOUNS FORMED WITH PREFIXES (Nouns, p. 9)

By adding a prefix to an existing noun, you can form a new noun with a different meaning.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| anti- (against) + body | → | *anti*body |
| sub- (under) + marine | → | *sub*marine |
| mal- (bad) + nutrition | → | *mal*nutrition |

## 3.2

### VERBS FORMED WITH PREFIXES (Verbs, p. 29).

A new verb with a different meaning can be formed by adding a prefix to an existing verb.

He *used* the tool correctly.
verb

He *mis*used the tool, and it broke.
verb

A verb can also be formed by adding a prefix to another part of speech.

Anja is my new *friend*.
noun

She *be*friended me on my first day at the new school.
verb

## 3.2 IN GERMAN

As in English, prefixes and suffixes can be used to change the meaning of words and to change a word's part of speech.

### NOUNS FORMED WITH SUFFIXES

Certain suffixes not only affect the meaning of a noun but also determine the gender of the noun being formed (Gender, p. 20).

- noun + **-chen** and **-lein** → new noun is neuter
  These suffixes show that the noun is a diminutive, i.e., something reduced in size.

| **Noun** | | **New noun neuter** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| das Brot (neut.) | *bread* | das Brötchen | *roll, little bread* |
| der Brief (masc.) | *letter* | das Briefl**ein** | *small letter* |
| die Kerze (fem.) | *candle* | das Kerzl**ein** | *little candle* |

- adjective + **-heit, -keit, -ung, -nis,** etc. → feminine noun
  These suffixes turn an adjective into a noun expressing an abstract quality (p. 116).

| **Adjective** | | **Feminine noun** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| schön | *beautiful* | die Schön**heit** | *beauty* |
| frei | *free* | die Frei**heit** | *freedom* |
| möglich | *possible* | die Möglich**keit** | *possibility* |
| finster | *dark* | die Finster**nis** | *darkness* |
| beobachten | *to observe* | die Beobacht**ung** | *observation* |

## VERBS FORMED WITH PREFIXES

The infinitive form of a verb is always one word, i.e., the prefix is part of the verb: **ausgehen** *(to go out)*, **besuchen** *(to visit)*. However, that is not always the case when the verb is conjugated (Conjugation, p. 50). Prefixes are divided into two groups depending on whether or not they can be separated from the verb.

- **SEPARABLE PREFIXES** – German verbs with separable prefixes are similar to English verbs that are regularly used with a preposition (Prepositions, p. 74); namely, they are separate words functioning as a unit with the verb.

  They *are going out* tonight at 7:00 P.M.
  preposition

  He *picks up* his friend after class.
  preposition

  Separable prefixes in German include the following: **ab-, an-, auf-, aus-, bei-, ein-, fort-, her-, hin-, mit-, nach-, vor-, weg-, weiter-, zurück-, zusammen-.** Let us look at two examples to see how these prefixes can be separated from the verb.

| **Infinitive** | **Sentence** |
|---|---|
| **aus**gehen<br>*(to go out)* | Hans und ich **gehen** morgen **aus**.<br>*Hans and I **are going out** tomorrow.* |
| **an**kommen<br>*(to arrive)* | Der Zug **kommt** heute spät **an**.<br>*The train **is arriving** late today.* |

- **INSEPARABLE PREFIXES** – German verbs with inseparable prefixes function as one word since these prefixes are never separated from the basic verb. Inseparable prefixes in German include the following: **be-, emp-, ent-, er-, ge-, miss-, ver-, zer-.** Let us look at two examples.

| **Infinitive** | **Sentence** |
|---|---|
| **be**suchen<br>*(to visit)* | Wir **besuchen** unsere Tante.<br>*We **are visiting** our aunt.* |
| **ver**gessen<br>*(to forget)* | Du **vergißt** immer dein Buch.<br>*You always **forget** your book.* |

Some prefixes, such as **durch-, über-, um-,** and **unter-,** can be either separable or inseparable depending on usage. Your German textbook will explain the rules for using verbs with separable and inseparable prefixes. When you learn a new verb formed with a prefix, memorize whether the prefix is separable or not.

# STUDY TIPS
## PREFIXES AND SUFFIXES

### Flashcards

1. Create flashcards of German verbal prefixes ***(an-, mit-, ver-, ent-, etc.)***. On the back of the card, write "Sep" (separable) or "Insep" (inseparable). If the prefix is easily translated, add the English translation. Underneath, write an example word using that prefix. If the verb has a separable prefix, add a short example sentence to illustrate the separation.

| | |
|---|---|
| mit- | Sep; *with*<br>mitkommen *(to come along)* |
| ver- | Insep<br>verstehen *(to understand)* |

Some textbooks use a period to distinguish separable prefixes from inseparable prefixes.

| | |
|---|---|
| an.kommen *(to arrive)* | - separable |
| bekommen *(to receive)* | - inseparable |

2. Create another set of flashcards. On the German side, write the infinitive of the verb stem at the top of the card. Underneath it, make two columns: one for the verb stem with separable prefixes, the other for the verb stem with inseparable prefixes. On the back, using the same layout, write the English translations.

**Verb stem:** stehen *to stand*

| **Sep. prefix** | **Insep. prefix** |
|---|---|
| aufstehen *to stand up* | bestehen *to pass a test* |
| anstehen *to stand in line* | verstehen *to understand* |

### Practice

1. Learn the meaning of the verb stem by flipping the cards first on the German side and then on the English side.
2. Learn the meaning of the verbs with prefixes by flipping cards as under #1. Occasionally, the meaning of the prefixes will give you a clue as to the change of meaning of the verb stem.
3. Do the above exercises orally as the verb forms with separable prefixes are pronounced differently from those with inseparable prefixes: if the prefix is separable, it is the stressed part of the verb form (**auf**stehen) , if the prefix is inseparable, it is the verb stem that is the stressed part of the verb form (ver**stehen**).

## REVIEW ACTIVITY

**I. Underline the prefixes in the following words.**

a. decode
b. enlarge
c. misunderstand
d. recover
e. preserve
f. performance

**II. Underline the suffixes in the following words.**

a. dependency
b. graceful
c. sleepless
d. exquisitely
e. happiness
f. questionable

# 44 WHAT IS A RELATIVE PRONOUN?

A **RELATIVE PRONOUN** is a word used at the beginning of a clause that gives additional information about someone or something previously mentioned.

clause
additional information about *the book*

I'm reading the book *that* the teacher recommended.

A relative pronoun serves two purposes:

- as a pronoun it stands for a noun or an idea previously mentioned. The noun or idea to which it refers is called the **ANTECEDENT.**

  Here comes the boy *who* broke the window.
  antecedent of the relative pronoun *who*

  The weather was terrible, *which* ruined the picnic.
  this entire independent clause is the antecedent of the relative pronoun *which*

- it introduces a **SUBORDINATE CLAUSE**, also called a **DEPENDENT CLAUSE**; that is, a group of words having a subject and a verb that cannot stand alone because it does not express a complete thought. A subordinate clause is dependent on a **MAIN CLAUSE**; that is, another group of words having a subject and a verb that can stand alone as a complete sentence (Sentence, p. 149).

  (main clause: Here comes the boy — verb: comes; subject: boy) (subordinate clause: *who broke the* window. — subject: *who*; verb: *broke*)

A subordinate clause that starts with a relative pronoun is also called a **RELATIVE CLAUSE.** In the example above, the relative clause starts with the relative pronoun *who* and gives us additional information about the antecedent *boy.*

Relative clauses are very common. We use them in everyday speech without giving much thought as to how we construct them. The relative pronoun allows us to combine two thoughts, which have a common element, into a single sentence. In this chapter, the relative clauses are underlined.

## 44.1 COMBINING SENTENCES WITH A RELATIVE PRONOUN

When sentences are combined with a relative pronoun, the relative pronoun can have different functions in the relative clause. It can be the subject, the direct object, the indirect object, or the object of a preposition.

Let us look at some examples of how sentences are combined.

- relative pronoun as a subject (Subject, p. 45).

  **SENTENCE A** The students passed the exam.
  **SENTENCE B** They studied.

1. **COMMON ELEMENT** – Identify the element sentences A and B have in common.

   Both *the students* and *they* refer to the same persons.

2. **ANTECEDENT** – The common element in sentence A will be the antecedent of the relative pronoun. The common element in sentence B will be replaced by a relative pronoun.

   *The students* is the antecedent. *They* will be replaced by a relative pronoun.

3. **FUNCTION** – The relative pronoun in the relative clause has the same function as the word it replaces.

   *They* is the subject of *studied.* It will be replaced by a subject relative pronoun.

4. **PERSON OR THING** – Identify whether the antecedent refers to a person(s) or a thing(s).

   The antecedent *students* refers to persons.

5. **SELECTION** – Choose the relative pronoun according to its function and its antecedent (steps 3 and 4 below).

   *who*

6. **RELATIVE CLAUSE** – Place the relative pronoun at the beginning of sentence B, thus forming a relative clause.

   *who (that)* studied

7. **PLACEMENT** – To combine the two clauses, place the relative clause right after its antecedent.

   The students *who (that)* studied passed the exam.

- relative pronoun as a direct object (Objects, p. 63)

  **SENTENCE A** This is the student.
  **SENTENCE B** I saw him.
  1. COMMON ELEMENT: *the student* and *him*
  2. ANTECEDENT: the student
  3. FUNCTION: *him* is the direct object
  4. PERSON OR THING: *the student* is a person
  5. SELECTION: *that* or *whom*
  6. RELATIVE CLAUSE: *that (whom)* I saw
  7. PLACEMENT: the student + *that (whom)*

  This is the student *(that, whom)* I saw.

- relative pronoun as an indirect object (Objects, p. 63)

  **SENTENCE A** This is the student.
  **SENTENCE B** I gave him advice.

  1. COMMON ELEMENT: *the student* and *him*
  2. ANTECEDENT: the student
  3. FUNCTION: *him* is the indirect object
  4. PERSON or thing: *the student* is a person
  5. SELECTION: *to whom*
  6. RELATIVE CLAUSE: *to whom* I gave advice
  7. PLACEMENT: the student + *to whom* I gave advice

  This is the student *to whom* I gave advice.

- relative pronoun as an object of a preposition (Prepositions, p. 80)

  **SENTENCE A** This is the student.
  **SENTENCE B** I spoke with him.

  1. COMMON ELEMENT: *the student* and *him*
  2. ANTECEDENT: the student
  3. FUNCTIONS: *him* is the object of the preposition *with*
  4. PERSON or thing: *the student* is a person
  5. SELECTION: *whom*
  6. RELATIVE CLAUSE: *with whom* I spoke
  7. PLACEMENT: the student + *with whom* I spoke

  This is the student *with whom* I spoke.

## 44.2 SELECTION OF A RELATIVE PRONOUN

### IN ENGLISH

The selection of a relative pronoun in English depends not only on its function in the relative clause, but also on whether its antecedent is a "person" (human beings and animals) or a "thing" (objects and ideas). In standard and written English, *who* or *whom* are the relative pronouns used to refer to persons. In spoken English, they are often replaced by *that*. Moreover, in certain functions the relative pronoun is omitted altogether.

STANDARD: The teacher *(whom)* you wanted to see is not here.
SPOKEN: The teacher *(that)* you wanted to see is not here.

The distinction between spoken and standard English is important. In this chapter we refer to standard English which includes a relative pronoun.

### IN GERMAN

Unlike English, the same set of relative pronouns is used for antecedents referring to persons and things and, more importantly, relative pronouns can never be omitted.

German relative pronouns are based on two factors:

1. Gender and number — the gender and number of the antecedent.
2. Case form – their function in the relative clause

We shall look at each function separately. Notice that relative clauses are always separated by a comma from the main clause.

## 44.3 SUBJECT OF THE RELATIVE CLAUSE

### IN ENGLISH

There are three relative pronouns that can be used as subjects of a relative clause, depending on whether the relative pronoun refers to a person or a thing. When it is the subject of a relative clause, the relative pronoun is never omitted.

**Person** — who (or that) → subject of the relative clause

She is the only student *who (that)* answered all the time.

**Thing** — which or that → subject of the relative clause

The movie *which* is so popular was filmed in Germany.
The movie *that* is so popular was filmed in Germany.

Notice that the relative pronoun subject is always followed by a verb.

### IN GERMAN

Relative pronouns that are the subject of the relative clause are in the nominative case. The form depends on the gender and number of the antecedent.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Singular** | | |
| Masculine | der | *who, that, which* |
| Feminine | die | |
| Neuter | das | |
| **Plural** | die | |

To choose the correct form,

1. Antecedent — Find the antecedent. (Don't forget that the antecedent is always the noun that precedes the relative pronoun.)
2. Number & gender — Determine the number and gender of the antecedent.
3. Selection — Select the corresponding form in the nominative case.

Here is an example.

*The man **who** visited us was nice.*

1. ANTECEDENT: man
2. NUMBER & GENDER: **der Mann** *(the man)* is masculine singular
3. SELECTION: masculine singular nominative → **der**

Der Mann, **der** uns besuchte, war nett.

## 44.4 DIRECT OBJECT OF THE RELATIVE CLAUSE

### IN ENGLISH

There are three relative pronouns that can be used as direct objects of a relative clause, depending on whether the relative pronoun refers to a person or a thing. Since relative pronouns are often omitted when they are objects of a relative clause, for reference we have indicated them in parentheses in the examples below in standard English.

**PERSON** — *whom* (or *that)* → object of a relative clause

- as a direct object

  This is the student *(whom, that)* I saw yesterday.

- as an indirect object

  Ingrid is the person *to whom* he gave the present.

**THING** — *which* (or *that)* → object of a relative clause

- as a direct object

  This is the book *(which)* Axel bought.

  This is the book *(that)* Axel bought.

- as an indirect object

  Here is the library *to which* he gave the book.

### IN GERMAN

Relative pronouns that are the direct objects of the relative clause are either in the accusative or dative case, depending on the verb. The form used depends on the gender and number of the antecedent.

| | Accusative | Dative | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Singular** | | | |
| Masculine | den | dem | *who, that, which* |
| Feminine | die | der | |
| Neuter | das | dem | |
| **Plural** | die | denen | |

Unlike English, relative pronouns are never omitted in German. (For reference, the equivalent English relative pronouns below are in parentheses.)

- as a direct object → accusative or dative

*Here is the student* (***whom, that***) *Franz saw last night.*

Hier ist der Student, **den** Franz gestern Abend sah.
masc. sing masc. sing. acc.

*The bag* (***that***) *I'm buying is expensive.*

Die Tasche, **die** ich kaufe, ist teuer.
fem. sing. fem. sing. acc. (**kaufen** takes an accusative object)

*The cat* (***that***) *the dog followed was black.*

Die Katze, **der** der Hund folgte, war schwarz.
fem. sing. fem. sing. dat. (**folgen** takes a dative object)

## 44.5 INDIRECT OBJECT OR OBJECT OF A PREPOSITION IN A RELATIVE CLAUSE

### IN ENGLISH

Relative pronouns used as indirect objects or as objects of a preposition are the same as those used as direct objects. As is the case with other relative pronouns used as objects, they are often omitted. By integrating the preposition "to" before indirect objects and any other preposition within the sentence, you will be able to restore the relative pronoun.

**Person** — *whom* (or *that)* → indirect object or object of a preposition in a relative clause

Here is the student *(that) Franz gave the book* ***to.***
dangling preposition
Here is the student ***to whom*** *Franz gave the book.*

Ingrid is the person *(that) he went out* ***with.***
dangling preposition
Ingrid is the person ***with whom*** *he went out.*

**Thing** — *which* (or *that)* → object of a preposition in a relative clause

This is the library *that he was talking* ***about.***
dangling preposition
This is the library ***about which*** *I was talking.*

IN GERMAN

Relative pronouns that are the indirect objects take the dative case. Relative pronouns that are objects of a preposition take the case required by the preposition and reflect the gender of the antecedent. Since German places prepositions directly preceding their objects, you will need to restructure English phrases with dangling prepositions.

*Here is the person (that) I was waiting* ***for.*** →
*Here is the person* ***for whom*** *I was waiting.*
Hier ist die Person, **auf die** ich wartete.
fem. sing. fem. sing. **auf** + acc.

*Here is the person (that) I was speaking* ***with.*** →
*Here is the person* ***with whom*** *I was speaking.*
Hier ist die Person, **mit der** ich sprach.
fem. sing. fem. sing. **mit** + dat.

## 44.6 RELATIVE PRONOUN AS POSSESSIVE MODIFIER

IN ENGLISH

The possessive modifier *whose* does not change its form regardless of its function in the relative clause.

Here are the people *whose* car was stolen.
antecedent possessive modifying *car*

Look at the house *whose* roof was fixed.
antecedent possessive modifying *roof*

IN GERMAN

The possessive modifier is always in the genitive case. The form used depends on the gender of the antecedent.

| **Genitive** | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Singular** | Masculine | dessen | *whose* |
| | Feminine | deren | |
| | Neuter | dessen | |
| **Plural** | | deren | |

Let's look at an example.

*Hans, **whose** alarm clock was broken, overslept.*

1. Antecedent: Hans
2. Number & Gender: *Hans* is masculine singular.
3. Selection: **dessen**

Hans, **dessen** Wecker kaputt war, hat sich verschlafen.

## 44.7 SUMMARY OF RELATIVE PRONOUNS

Here is a chart you can use as reference.

| **Function in relative clause** | **Antecedent singular** | | | **Antecedent plural** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Masculine | Feminine | Neuter | |
| Nominative | der | die | das | die |
| Accusative | den | die | das | die |
| Dative | dem | der | dem | denen |
| Genitive | dessen | deren | dessen | deren |

## 44.8 RELATIVE PRONOUNS WITHOUT ANTECEDENT

There are relative pronouns that refer to an antecedent that has not been expressed or to an entire idea.

### IN ENGLISH

The relative pronoun *which* can be used without an antecedent.

She didn't do well, *which* is too bad.
antecedent an idea: the fact that she didn't do well

### IN GERMAN

There is also one relative pronoun that can be used without an antecedent: **was** *(which, what)*.

Anna hat uns eingeladen, **was** wir nett gefunden haben.
*Anna invited us, **which** we found nice.*

Your textbook may give you examples of other instances that require the use of **was** as a relative pronoun.

# STUDY TIPS
## RELATIVE PRONOUNS

### Pattern

To help you remember the forms of the relative pronouns, look for similarities with another part of speech such as definite articles.

**Relative pronouns**

| | **masc.** | **fem.** | **neut.** | **pl.** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nominative | der | die | das | die |
| Accusative | den | die | das | die |
| Dative | dem | der | dem | denen |
| Genitive | dessen | deren | dessen | deren |

**Definite articles**

| | **masc.** | **fem.** | **neut.** | **pl.** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nominative | der | die | das | die |
| Accusative | den | die | das | die |
| Dative | dem | der | dem | den |
| Genitive | des | der | des | der |

What are the similarities between relative pronouns and definite articles?

- nominative, accusative, and dative singular → identical
- genitive and dative plural → same first 3 letters **(des-, der-, des-, der-)**

### Practice

Write two sentences that use the same noun in each sentence. Underline the noun, label its gender, and identify its function (case) in each sentence. Combine the two sentences, replacing one of the nouns with a relative pronoun. Pay attention to the case of the relative pronoun and the verb placement in the relative clause.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Der Bus** ist spät. | der Bus: masc., subject → nom. |
| Ich warte auf **den Bus.** | den Bus: masc., direct object →acc. |

**Der Bus,** auf **den** ich warte, ist spät.
***The bus*** *is late. I'm waiting* ***for the bus.*** → ***The bus*** *(that) I'm waiting for* is late.

## REVIEW ACTIVITY

**I. Circle the antecedent of the relative pronoun in the following sentences.**

**Identify the function of the relative pronoun: subject (S), direct object (DO), indirect object (IO), object of a preposition (OP), possessive modifier (PM).**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a. | I received the letter that you sent me. | S | DO | IO | OP | PM |
| b. | Those are the people who speak German. | S | DO | IO | OP | PM |
| c. | The woman whom you met left today. | S | DO | IO | OP | PM |
| d. | This is the book whose title I forgot. | S | DO | IO | OP | PM |
| e. | Kit is the student about whom I spoke. | S | DO | IO | OP | PM |
| f. | German is a language that about 130 million people speak. | S | DO | IO | OP | PM |

**II. The common elements in the sentence below have been highlighted. Fill in the information requested to find the correct relative pronoun and write a new English sentence using a relative pronoun.**

a. The dog is friendly. It lives next door.

Function of element to replace: _____

Relative pronoun: _____

Combined sentence: _____

b. The Smiths left for Austria. You met them in Basel.

Function of element to replace: _____

Relative pronoun: _____

Combined sentence: _____

c. The new student is German. You were asking about her.

Function of element to replace: _____

Relative pronoun: _____

Combined sentence: _____

d. Andreas is my neighbor. His new car is parked outside.

Function of element to replace: _____

Relative pronoun: _____

Combined sentence: _____

# INDEX


a, an 26–27
accusative case (**der Akkusativ**) 34–37, 63–65
active voice 188–89
adjective 116
  attributive 118–19
  in comparative degree 122–24
  in superlative degree 124–25
  demonstrative 116, 145–46
  descriptive 116, 117–19
  endings 118–19
    mixed (**gemischt**) 118, 120
    strong (**stark**) 118, 120
    weak (**schwach**) 118, 120
  interrogative 116, 136–37, 141
  possessive 116, 131–33, 135, 194
  predicate 117–18, 123, 125, 165
adverb 165–66, 180
agent 188–89, 191
  impersonal (**unpersönlich**) 191–92
  in passive voice 188–89, 191
agreement (**die Kongruenz**) 8, 25–27
antecedent 70–71, 80–81, 134, 147–48, 168–75
  indefinite 42–43
  of personal pronoun 40
  of relative pronoun 168–75
apostrophe 50, 127–28, 155
article 21–24, 25–27
  definite 25–26
  indefinite 26–27
be 48, 50, 88, 100, 103, 106, 109, 112, 117, 183, 185, 188–89
  in passive voice 188–89
  in subjunctive 183, 195
case (**der Kasus**) 32
  of objects 32, 34, 63–66
  of interrogative pronoun 139–40
  of personal pronoun 68–71
  of predicate noun 32, 34, 48–49
  of reflexive pronoun 94–95
  of relative pronoun 170–75
  with prepositions 34, 74–78
clause (**der Satz, der Teilsatz**) 151–53, 161–64
  dependent (**der Nebensatz**) 151–53, 168
  main clause (**der Hauptsatz**) 151–52, 168
  relative 168–75
  subordinate 151, 161–62, 168
command *see* imperative
compound tense (**zusammengesetzte Zeit**) 59, 88, 102–03, 106
conjugation 13, 31, 50–55, 83–85
conjunction 151, 161–64
  coordinating 151, 161
  subordinating 151–53, 161–62
contrary to fact condition 178, 183

**da**-compound (**das da-Kompositum**) 80–81
dative case (**der Dativ**) 34–37, 64–66
  indirect object 65–66
  in passive sentence 192
  in possessive 129, 132
  object of verb 64
  of interrogative pronoun 137, 141
  of personal pronoun 69–71
  of reflexive pronoun 94–95
  of relative pronoun 172–74
  with preposition 75–76
declension (**die Deklination**) 34–36
**der**-words 118–19, 136–37, 145–56
discourse 194–96
  direct (**direkte Rede**) 194–95
  indirect (**indirekte Rede**) 194–95
do, does, did 61, 155, 156, 158–59

**ein**-words 119, 132, 156

feminine gender (**feminin/weiblich**) 12, 20–21
function 7–8, 10, 11
future perfect tense (**das Futur II**) 59–60, 83, 114–15
future tense (**das Futur I**) 59–60, 89, 99–100
  of probability 100–101

**ge-** 84–85, 108–109, 189–90
  as inseparable prefix 13
gender (**grammatisches Geschlecht**) 10, 12, 20–21
genitive case (**der Genitiv**) 34–36, 75, 80, 128–29, 174–75
gerund 109–110

**haben** 89, 102–04, 109, 112, 114, 185, 187, 195
have 29, 88, 102, 107
he 40–41, 46
her 68, 131, 133
hers 134–35
herself 93
him 68
himself 93
his 131

I 40–41
idiom 6–7
if clause 183, 185
imperative 178, 180–81
imperfect see simple past tense
indicative mood 59, 178
infinitive 12–13, 29–31
-ing
  gerund 109–10
  participle 106–07

# INDEX


it 40–41, 46
its 131
itself 93

**kein** 35, 155–56

let's 180
-ly ending of adverb 11, 165

masculine gender (**maskulin/männlich**) 20–21
me 68, 80, 93
meaning 6–7
mine 134–35
mood (**der Modus**) 31, 178
  in indirect discourse 194–96
my 131
myself 93

necessity, expression of 184
negative 88, 155–57, 159–60
neuter gender (**neutrum**) 12, 20–21
nicht 124, 155–57, 160
nominative case (**der Nominativ**) 33–37
  of interrogative pronoun 140–42
  of personal pronoun 41–43
noun 9–10
  agreement with article 25–27
  collective 16
  common (**der Gattungsname**) 9, 20–21, 53–54, 128–29
  compound (**die Zusammensetzung**) 9–10
  predicate 32–34, 48–49
  proper (**der Eigenname**) 9, 20–21, 38, 53, 128–29
  verbal 109–10
number 16–17

object 7–8, 32–37, 63–67
  direct 63–65, 66–67
  indirect 63–37
  of preposition 74–76
  of interrogative pronoun 139–142
  of personal pronoun 68–71
  of reflexive pronoun 93–97
  of relative pronoun 168–75
objective case 33, 68–69
of 127
our 131
ours 134
ourselves 93
part of speech (**die Wortklasse**) 7, 11–12, 16, 20, 32
participle 83–85, 88–89, 106–10
  past 107–09
  present 106–07
passive voice 188–92
  impersonal passive 191–92
past perfect tense (**das Plusquamperfekt**) 112–13
past tense 102–04
  emphatic 102
  progressive 102
perfect tenses 102–04, 112–13, 114–15
**Perfekt** *see* present perfect tense
person 40–41
  first 40
  second 40
  third 40
phrase 149–50
  participial 106–07, 149
  prepositional 74, 149
  infinitive 29, 149
pluperfect tense *see* past perfect tense
plural 16
**Plusquamperfekt** *see* past perfect tense
possessive 127
prefix 11
  inseparable (**trennbar**) 13
  separable (**untrennbar**) 13
preposition 74
  dangling 76
  object of *see* object of preposition
  two way 75–76
present perfect tense 102–03
present tense 61
  emphatic 61
  progressive 61
preterite tense *see* simple past tense
principal parts (**die Hauptteile**) 83–85
pronoun 38–39
  direct object 69–71
  indirect object 69–71
  interrogative 139–40
  object 68–69
  object of preposition 80–81
  personal 40–41
    in imperative 180–81
    as subject 46–47
  possessive 134–35
  reflexive 93–94
  relative 168
  subject 46–47

questions 158–59

requests 186–87
**sein** 48, 52, 89, 103, 109, 112, 114, 185, 187, 195
sentence 149
  affirmative 155
  complete 29, 151–52
  complex (**zusammengesetzter Satz**) 151–52

compound (**das Satzgefüge**) 151
declarative 158
interrogative 158
negative 155
simple 150
shall 99
she 40–41, 46
simple past tense 102
simple tense 59 61, 102
singular 16
strong *see* adjective endings *and* verb
subject 45
subjunctive mood (**das Konjunktiv**) 178, 183–87
past 185
present 184–85
subjunctive I 194–96
subjunctive II 184–87
suffix 11

tense (**das Tempus**) 31, 59–60
that 147
the 25
their 134
theirs 131
them 68
themselves 93
these 147
they 40–41, 46
this 147
those 147

umlaut
with plural 17
with irregular verbs 51
with comparative adjectives 123
with superlative adjectives 124–25
with the subjunctive 184–85
us 68

verb 29–30
auxiliary **(das Hilfsverb)** 61, 88–90
*see also* **haben sein werden**
conjugated 31, 50
helping *see* verb auxiliary
intransitive 63–64
irregular 51
linking (**die Kopula/das Kopulaverb**) 48
main (**das Hauptverb**) 45, 59, 88–89
mixed (**gemischt**) 51
modal auxiliary 90
reflexive 93–94
regular 51
stem 51
strong (**stark**) 51
transitive 63
weak (**schwach**) 51
with prefixes 13
vocabulary (**der Wortschatz/die Vokabeln**) 2–4, 6–7, 11–12
voice (**die Diathese**) 31, 188

we 40–41
command (**der Befehl**) 180
weak *see* adjective endings *and* verb
**werden** 48, 52, 89, 99, 109, 114, 185–87, 189–92
what
as interrogative adjective 136
as interrogative pronoun 141
which
as interrogative adjective 136
as relative pronoun 171, 175
who
as interrogative pronoun 139
as relative pronoun 168
whom
as interrogative pronoun 139
as relative pronoun 172–73
whose
as interrogative pronoun 142
as relative pronoun 174–75
will 31, 59–60, 83, 88–89, 99
wishes 178, 183–84
**wo-**compound (**das wo-Kompositum**) 142
word order (**die Syntax/die Wortstellung**) 33, 66–67, 151–52, 158, 161, 166, 192
would 88, 178, 183
würde-construction 185–87

you 40–41
command 180
familiar 42
formal 42
your 131
yours 134
yourself 93
yourselves 93