**Adjective Endings**

With adjectives in German, each one that goes *BEFORE* a noun will have an ending. When you use multiple adjectives at once, they all take the same ending that you find in the appropriate box below.

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| **“der words”** | **Masculine** | **Feminine** | **Neuter** | **Plural** |
| **Nominative** | der (e) | die (e) | das (e) | die (en) |
| **Accusative** | den (en) | die (e) | das (e) | die (en) |
| **Dative** | dem (en) | der (en) | dem (en) | den (en) |
| **Genitive** | des (en) | der (en) | des (en) | der (en) |

 der alte Mann die alte Frau das alte Buch die alten Schuhe

These adjective endings are used when you are talking about 1 definite thing, as in THE old man, or THE old book. Any adjective attaches itself to the letters in the parentheses. Thusly, in dative, “to the old man” would be “dem alten Mann”, because dative is often used to answer the question “to whom/for whom?”

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| **“ein words”** | **Masculine** | **Feminine** | **Neuter** | **Plural** |
| **Nominative** | ein (er) | eine (e) | ein (es) | meine (en) |
| **Accusative** | einen (en) | eine (e) | ein (es) | meine (en) |
| **Dative** | einem (en) | einer (en) | einem (en) | meinen (en) |
| **Genitive** | eines (en) | einer (en) | eines (en) | meiner (en) |

 ein alter Mann eine alte Frau ein altes Buch meine alten Schuhe

These adjective endings are used when you are referring to a type of thing in general, but not one specific example, as in AN old man, or A red book. There, you specify the group or thing, but not one particular member of any group. Notice how you cannot use “a” for the plural category, because one cannot have “a cars”. This column would only be used with adjectives like my, your, his, none, and so forth.

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| **“Unproceeded”** | **Masculine** | **Feminine** | **Neuter** | **Plural** |
| **Nominative** | guter | gute | gutes | gute |
| **Accusative** | guten | gute | gutes | gute |
| **Dative** | gutem | guter | gutem | guten |
| **Genitive** | guten | guter | guten | guter |

 alter Mann alte Frau altes Buch alte Schuhe

This group shows how to use adjectives without “a”, “the”, or words that are used similarly. Used often with “I want/like/have/see/hear, etc”, every adjective takes the ending shown in the appropriate box. “Ich habe braune Schuhe.” or “Ich will gutes billiges deutsches Essen.” Think about a sentence in English where you can just have adjective+noun and it will help you see how these are used.