



Script: The Genitive Case – Part 1: Definite Articles

Hi Guys! Hallo Leute! Welcome back to German with Jenny. In this video, I want to introduce the genitive case to you. And I will start by explaining how to use the genitive case with definite articles, viz. “der”, “die” and “das”.

Here’s the link — <http://bit.ly/2imOVWZ> — that will take you directly to the exercises. So once you’ve watched this video, make sure to do the exercises.

You can also follow me on germanwithjenny.com and be notified whenever I publish new exercises. Let’s get started.

The most important thing that you need to know is that the genitive shows possession; in English, it’s shown by the word “of” or by adding an apostrophe.

Let’s take a look at some examples.

English	German
the woman’s handbag (or) the handbag of the woman	die Handtasche der Frau spoken/colloq.: die Handtasche von der Frau ¹
the girl’s doll (or) the doll of the girl	die Puppe des Mädchens spoken/colloq.: die Puppe von dem Mädchen
the father’s suit (or) the suit of the father	der Anzug des Vaters spoken/colloq.: der Anzug von dem Vater
the children’s clothes (or) the clothes of the children	die Anziehsachen ² der Kinder spoken/colloq.: die Anziehsachen von den Kindern

¹ It’s very important that when you write a text, especially in a formal exam, that you use the genitive. I would advise that you learn both forms; so in spoken language it’s much more natural to use the dative form, i.e., “die Handtasche von der Frau”, but in written language I would suggest you write it in the genitive form, i.e., “die Handtasche der Frau”. It sounds much better; it’s grammatically correct and it’s the way you should write a text.

² “Anziehsachen” is a very colloquial word. If you want to say this in a more formal way, you would say “die Kleidung der Kinder”. Another colloquial way of saying it would be “die Klamotten der Kinder”.



Now let's take a look at how genitive is formed. And I want to start by introducing definite articles to you. You already know the definite articles in the nominative case. Let's take a look at these examples.

	NOMINATIVE	GENITIVE
MASCULINE	der Vater der Fernseher der Bildschirm	des Vaters des Fernsehers des Bildschirms
FEMININE	die Frau die Lampe die Straße	der Frau der Lampe der Straße
NEUTRAL	das Auto das Badezimmer das Fenster	des Autos des Badezimmers des Fensters
PLURAL	die Kinder die Häuser die Familien	der Kinder der Häuser der Familien

You can see that

- "der" changes to "des" in the masculine form
- "die" changes to "der" in the feminine form
- "das" changes to "des" in the neutral form
- "die" changes to "der" in the plural form

You can also see two other changes. You can see that we add an "s" in the masculine form at the end of the noun and we do the same in the neutral form. So we add an "s" at the end of the noun.

Adding an "s" at the end of the noun happens when there's more than one syllable.



When the rules of N-Deklination apply, we have to add –n or –en.

	NOMINATIVE	GENITIVE
MASCULINE	der Junge	des Jungen
	der Mensch	des Menschen
PLURAL	die Architekten	der Architekten
	die Kunden	der Kunden

You can see that the plural doesn't change, except for the article.

In many cases, you add an "es" at the end of the noun if the noun has only one syllable.

	NOMINATIVE	GENITIVE
MASCULINE	der Baum	des Baum <u>es</u>
	der Weg	des Weg <u>es</u>
NEUTRAL	das Land	des Land <u>es</u>
	das Kind	des Kind <u>es</u>

Nouns ending in –sch or –st often add –es

	NOMINATIVE	GENITIVE
MASCULINE	der Tisch	des Tisch <u>es</u>
NEUTRAL	das Fest	des Fest <u>es</u>



Nouns ending in –s, –ss, –ß, –z, –tz and –chs add –es

	NOMINATIVE	GENITIVE
MASCULINE	der Fluss	des Fluss es
	der Witz	des Witz es
	der Fuchs	des Fuch es
NEUTRAL	das Haus	des Haus es
	das Glas	des Glas es
	das Schloss	des Schloss es

Nouns ending in –nis add –ses at the end

	NOMINATIVE	GENITIVE
NEUTRAL	das Ergebnis	des Ergebniss es
	das Verhältnis	des Verhältniss es

When you use first names, you just add an –s to the first name to show possession such as in these examples:

- Annas Buch
- Karls Frau

If the name already ends in –s or –z, an apostrophe is added.

- Johannes' Buch
- Heinz' Hut

Geographical names without articles also add an "s":

- Die Hauptstadt Deutschlands**s** ist Berlin. – *The capital of Germany is Berlin.*
- Frankreich**s** Küsten sind wunderschön. – *The coasts of France are beautiful.*



- Wir gingen durch die Innenstadt Londons. – *We walked through the downtown area of London.*

However, if the geographical name has an article, you cannot just add an “s”, such as in this example:

- Das Wasser der Donau fließt durch den Naturpark Obere Donau. – *The water of the Danube flows through the natural park “Obere Donau”.*

So “Donau” has a feminine article – die Donau. So we have to transform it into “der Donau” in the genitive case.

Jetzt seid ihr dran! Testet euer Wissen! – *Now it’s your turn! Test your knowledge!*

I will give you the nominative forms of the nouns and you’ll have to come up with the genitive forms.

	Masculine	Feminine	Neutral	Plural
Nominative	der Hund	die Katze	das Pferd	die Tiere
	der Zug	die Tochter	das Telefon	die Schulen
	der Fuß	die Erdnuss	das Problem	die Dateien

Solution:

	Masculine	Feminine	Neutral	Plural
Nominative	der Hund	die Katze	das Pferd	die Tiere
	der Zug	die Tochter	das Telefon	die Schulen
	der Fuß	die Erdnuss	das Problem	die Dateien
Genitive	des Hundes	der Katze	des Pferdes	der Tiere
	des Zuges	der Tochter	des Telefons	der Schulen
	des Fußes	der Erdnuss	des Problems	der Dateien



In the following examples you have to correct the mistakes. I have used the nominative case where I should have used the genitive case.

1. Ich gehe mit dem Hund der Nachbar spazieren. – *I am walking the neighbor's dog.*
2. Er ist mit dem Motorrad der Mann weggefahren. – *He drove away with the man's motorbike.*
3. Maria fährt am Montag mit dem Auto die Mutter zur Arbeit. – *Maria is going to work on Monday with the mother's car.*
4. Sophia spielt mit dem Spielzeugauto der Bruder. – *Sophia is playing with the brother's toy car.*
5. Die Architekten entwerfen den Grundriss das Gebäude. – *The architects are designing the layout of the building.*
6. Die Besucher das Schloss kaufen eine Eintrittskarte. – *The visitors of the castle are buying an entrance ticket.*
7. Der Bodensee, der Chiemsee, der Edersee und der Müggelsee gehören zu den schönsten Seen Deutschland. – *Lake Constance, the Chiemsee, the Edersee and the Muegelsee are the most beautiful lakes in Germany.*

Solution:

1. Ich gehe mit dem Hund des Nachbarn spazieren. – *I am walking the neighbor's dog.*
Ich gehe mit dem Hund der Nachbarn spazieren. – *I am walking the neighbors' dog (plural – more than one neighbor, maybe a couple's dog).*
2. Er ist mit dem Motorrad des Mannes weggefahren.
3. Maria fährt am Montag mit dem Auto der Mutter zur Arbeit.
4. Sophia spielt mit dem Spielzeugauto des Bruders.
5. Die Architekten entwerfen den Grundriss des Gebäudes.
6. Die Besucher des Schlosses kaufen eine Eintrittskarte.
7. Der Bodensee, der Chiemsee, der Edersee und der Müggelsee gehören zu den schönsten Seen Deutschlands.

Alright, I hope that wasn't too complicated! Here's the link (<http://bit.ly/2imOVWZ>) that will take you directly to the exercises so you can practice everything that we learned today.



If you like my videos and you want to support me, you can do that on patreon.com/germanwithjenny where you can make a monthly contribution. Just \$1 a month is already a huge help. If you decide to support me, you will have access to all the scripts of my videos, the mp3 and the mp4 files, and you will also be able to listen to my new podcast series.

If you want to review the other cases, you can take a look my playlist <http://bit.ly/2iric61>, which covers the dative case, the nominative case and the accusative case. And I will also be adding the videos on the genitive case in the near future.

Vielen Dank, dass ihr heute dabei wart. Bis zum nächsten Mal. Tschüs!