



Grammatical Terms

English Term	Definition	Example
Noun	A person, place or thing In German nouns start with a capital letter and have one of three genders (masculine - <i>der</i> , feminine - <i>die</i> or neuter - <i>das</i>).	House – <i>das Haus</i> London Mark
Verb	A “doing” word i.e. expresses an action or existence. Verbs in German can be regular (often called <i>weak verbs</i>) or irregular (<i>strong</i> or <i>mixed verbs</i>).	<i>I work</i> <i>I am</i> <i>They eat</i>
Infinitive	The main part of the verb, the part found in the dictionary (the “default”). Usually ends in - <i>en</i> in German.	To eat (<i>essen</i>) To sell (<i>verkaufen</i>) To work (<i>arbeiten</i>)
Adjective	Describes a noun.	Large, a <i>large</i> company Blue, a <i>blue</i> car
Adverb	Gives more information about a verb. Often end in - <i>ly</i> in English. In German adverbs often have the same form as adjectives.	He drives <i>quickly</i> She works <i>well</i> Speak <i>slowly</i> <i>Very beautiful, quite nice</i>
Article Definite article Indefinite article	Word placed before a noun e.g. the, a The (relates to a specific person, place or thing) A, an (used when not talking about a specific noun) There are three genders in German – masculine, feminine and neuter.	The (<i>der, die, das, die</i>) The house (<i>das Haus</i>) A, an (<i>ein, eine, ein</i>) A house (<i>ein Haus</i>)
Preposition	Shows the relationship of one word to another: Preposition of place Preposition of date and time	In, on, under, next to, far from <i>In August, on Monday, at 3.00</i>
Subject	The person or thing doing the action of the verb. In German the subject of the sentence needs to be in the nominative case.	<i>I play tennis</i> <i>The girl works</i> <i>The sun shines</i>
Direct Object	The person or thing to which the action is being done. In German the direct object requires the accusative case.	<i>I buy a computer</i> <i>We sell cars</i>
Indirect Object	The person or thing to whom something is given, told, shown, etc. In German the indirect object requires the dative case.	<i>We give the report to the manager.</i> <i>We sell cars to China</i>
Pronoun	A word used to save repeating the noun.	<i>I saw Peter – I saw him</i> <i>The man works – he works</i>