

Table of Contents

German Nouns.....	1
Here are some guide lines you can use.....	1
Always MASCULINE (der/ein):.....	1
Usually MASCULINE (der/ein):.....	2
Always FEMININE (die/eine):.....	2
Usually FEMININE (die/eine):.....	3
Always NEUTER (das/ein):.....	3
Usually NEUTER (das/ein):.....	4
Link.....	4

German Nouns

	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	Plural
Nom.	der	die	das	die
Acc.	den	die	das	die
Dat.	dem	der	dem	den
Gen.	des	der	des	der

Important to remember is that **DER**, **DIE**, **DAS** mean "*the*". The **articles** change in the four different cases. Thus they provide us with information about the function of the word in the sentence. Is it the subject, object, indirect object or possessive object?

Here are some guide lines you can use.

Always MASCULINE (der/ein):

- **Days, months, and seasons:** Montag, Juli, Sommer (Monday, July, summer). The one exception is das Frühjahr, another word for der Frühling, spring.
- **Points of the compass**, map locations and winds: Nordwest(en) (northwest), Süd(en) (south), der Föhn (warm wind out of the Alps), der Scirocco (sirocco, a hot desert wind).
- **Precipitation:** Regen, Schnee, Nebel (rain, snow, fog/mist)

- **Names of cars and trains:** der VW, der ICE, der Mercedes. (But motorbikes and aircraft are feminine.)
- **Words ending in -ismus:** Journalismus, Kommunismus, Synchronismus (equal -ism words in English)
- **Words ending in -ner:** Rentner, Schaffner, Zentner, Zöllner (pensioner, [train] conductor, hundred-weight, customs collector). The feminine form adds -in (die Rentnerin).
- **The basic "atmospheric" elements that end in -stoff:** der Sauerstoff (oxygen), der Stickstoff (nitrogen), der Wasserstoff (hydrogen), plus carbon (der Kohlenstoff). The only other elements (out of 112) that are masculine are der Phosphor and der Schwefel (sulphur).

Usually MASCULINE (der/ein):

- **Agents (people who do something), most occupations and nationalities:** der Architekt, der Arzt, der Deutsche, der Fahrer, der Verkäufer, der Student, der Täter (architect, physician, German [person], driver, salesman, student, perpetrator).
- **Nouns ending in -er, when referring to people** (but die Jungfer, die Mutter, die Schwester, die Tochter, das Fenster)
- **Names of alcoholic drinks:** der Wein, der Wodka (but das Bier)
- **Names of mountains and lakes:** der Berg, der See (but Germany's highest peak, die Zugspitze follows the rule for the feminine ending -e, and die See is the sea).
- **Most rivers outside of Europe:** der Amazonas, der Kongo, der Mississippi
- **Most nouns ending in -ich, -ling, -ist:** Rettich, Sittich, Schädling, Frühling, Pazifist (radish, parakeet, pest/parasite, spring, pacifist)

Always FEMININE (die/eine):

- **Nouns ending in the following suffixes:** -heit, -keit, -tät, -ung, -schaft – Examples: die Freiheit, Schnelligkeit, Universität, Zeitung, Freundschaft (freedom, quickness, university, newspaper, friendship). **Note that these suffixes usually have a corresponding English suffix, such as -ness (-heit, -keit), -ty (-tät), -ship (-schaft).
- **Nouns ending in -ie:** Drogerie, Geographie, Komödie, Industrie, Ironie (often equal to words ending in -y in English)

- **Names of aircraft, ships and motorbikes:** die Boeing 747, die Titanic, die BMW (motorbike only; the car is der BMW). The die comes from die Maschine, which can mean plane, motorbike and engine. **Helpful reminder: Ships are often referred to as "she" in English.
- **Nouns ending in -ik:** die Grammatik, Grafik, Klinik, Musik, Panik, Physik
- **Borrowed (foreign) nouns ending in: -ade, -age, -anz, -enz, -ette, -ine, -ion, -tur:** Parade, Blamage (shame), Bilanz, Distanz, Frequenz, Serviette (napkin), Limonade, Nation, Konjunktur (economic trend).
- **Cardinal numbers:** eine Eins, eine Drei (a one, a three)

Usually FEMININE (die/eine):

- **Nouns ending in -in** that pertain to female people, occupations, nationalities: Amerikanerin, Studentin (female American, student), but der Harlekin and also many non-people words: das Benzin, der Urin (gasoline/petrol, urine).
- **Most nouns ending in -e:** Ecke, Ente, Grenze, Pistole, Seuche (corner, duck, border, pistol, epidemic), but der Deutsche, das Ensemble, der Friede, der Junge ([the] German person, ensemble, peace, boy)
- **Nouns ending in -ei:** Partei, Schweinerei (party [political], dirty trick/mess), but das Ei, der Papagei (egg, parrot).
- **Most types of flowers and trees:** Birke, Chrysantheme, Eiche, Rose (birch, chrysanthemum, oak, rose), but der Ahorn, (maple), das Gänseblümchen (daisy), and the word for tree is der Baum
- **Borrowed (foreign) nouns ending in -isse, -itis, -ive:** Hornisse, Initiative (hornet, initiative)

Always NEUTER (das/ein):

- **Nouns ending in -chen or -lein:** Fräulein, Häuschen, Kaninchen, Mädchen (unmarried woman, cottage, rabbit, girl/maiden)
- **Infinitives used as nouns** (gerunds): das Essen, das Schreiben (eating/food, writing)
- **Almost all of the 112 known chemical elements** (das Aluminium, Blei, Kupfer, Uran, Zink, Zinn, Zirkonium, ...). **Note: Most of the elements end in -ium, a das ending.

- Names of hotels, cafés and theaters

- Names of colors used as nouns: das Blau, das Rot (blue, red)

Usually NEUTER (das/ein):

- Geographic place names (towns, countries, continents): das Berlin, Deutschland, Brasilien, Afrika (but learn non-das countries, such as: der Irak, der Jemen, die Schweiz, die Türkei, die USA [plur.])

- Young animals and people: das Baby, das Küken (chick); but der Junge (boy).

- Most metals: Aluminium, Blei, Kupfer, Messing, Zinn (aluminium, lead, copper, brass, tin/pewter; but die Bronze, der Stahl – bronze, steel)

- Nouns ending in -o (often cognates from Latin): das Auto, Büro, Kasino, Konto (account), Radio, Veto, Video: BUT: die Avocado, die Disko, der Euro, der Scirocco, etc.

- Fractions: das/ein Viertel ($\frac{1}{4}$), das/ein Drittel (but die Hälfte, half)

- Most nouns starting with Ge-: Genick, Gerät, Geschirr, Geschlecht, Gesetz, Gespräch (back of the neck, device, dishes, sex/gender, law, conversation): BUT der Gebrauch, der Gedanke, die Gefahr, der Gefallen, der Genuss, der Geschmack, der Gewinn, die Gebühr, die Geburt, die Geduld, die Gemeinde, die Geschichte etc.

- Most borrowed (foreign) nouns ending in -ment: Ressentiment, Supplement (but der Zement, der/das Moment [2 diff. Meanings])

- Most nouns ending in -nis: Versäumnis (neglect; BUT die Erlaubnis, die Erkenntnis, die Finsternis)

- Most nouns ending in -tum or -um: Christentum, Königtum (Christianity, kingship; but der Irrtum, der Reichtum – error, wealth)

Link

<http://marathonsprachen.com/the-der-die-das/>