

### A1.3.3 Was sind die vier Fälle? Warum brauchen wir sie?

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<https://app.colanguage.com/german/grammar/die-vier-faelle>



The cases in German show how words belong together in a sentence.

1. The cases show the role of a word in the sentence: they help to determine whether a word is the subject, object, or has another function in the sentence.

2. They affect the form of articles and nouns: depending on the case, the articles (der, die, das) and the endings of the nouns change.

| Fall (case) | Fragewort (question word) | Was wird beschrieben? (what is described?)          | Beispiel (example)  |
|-------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| Nominativ   | Wer? Was? (who? what?)    | Subjekt (subject)                                   | „Der Hund läuft.“ (Der Hund = Subjekt) (“The dog runs.” (Der Hund = Subjekt)  |
| Akkusativ   | Wen? Was? (whom? what?)   | Direktes Objekt (direct object)                     | „Ich sehe den Hund.“ (den Hund = direktes Objekt) (“I see the dog.” (den Hund = direct object)  |
| Dativ       | Wem? (to whom?)           | Indirektes Objekt (indirect object)                 | „Ich gebe dem Hund einen Ball.“ (dem Hund = indirektes Objekt) (“I give the dog a ball.” (dem Hund = indirect object)                         |
| Genitiv     | Wessen? (whose?)          | Besitz oder Zugehörigkeit (possession or belonging) | „Das ist das Spielzeug des Hundes.“ (des Hundes = Besitz oder Zugehörigkeit) (“That is the dog's toy.” (des Hundes = possession or belonging) |