

Subject, Direct Object, or Indirect Object? or Nominative, Accusative, or Dative?

I. Is the noun in question the **object of a preposition**? If yes, ask yourself:

A. Is the preposition accusative? – **durch, für, gegen, ohne, um**

B. Is the preposition dative? – **aus, außer, bei, mit, nach, seit, von, zu, gegenüber**

C. Is the preposition a two-way? – **an, auf, hinter, in, neben, über, unter, vor, zwischen**

1. Does the preposition show location? If yes, it's dative. There are also some verbs that are used with dative 2-way prepositions:

- **stehen**
- **sitzen**
- **liegen**

2. Does the preposition show movement? If yes, it's accusative. There are some verbs that are use with accusative 2-way prepositions:

- **stellen**
- **setzen**
- **legen**

II. Where is the noun in the sentence?

A. The **subject** is always right before or right after the verb.

B. If the direct object is a noun, it follows the indirect object.

C. If the direct object is a pronoun, it goes before the indirect object.

III. There are some verbs that **always** take a dative (indirect) object.

- **danken** – to thank
- **helfen** – to help
- **gefallen** – to be pleasing to
- **gehören** – to belong to
- **passen** – to fit
- **schmecken** – to taste
- **stehen** – to suit, look good on

IV. Who or what (**subject**) is doing who or what (**direct object**) to/for whom (**indirect object**)? Here is a list of verbs that allow you to ask this pattern and determine the case.

- **empfehlen** – to recommend
- **geben** – to give
- **glauben** – to think
- **kaufen** – to buy
- **leihen** – to lend, borrow
- **sagen** – to say
- **erzählen** – to tell
- **schenken** – to give as a gift
- **schicken** – to send
- **schreiben** – to write
- **wünschen** – to wish
- **zeigen** – to show

V. Definite Time Expressions (those that use **um** or **jeder**) are always **accusative case**.

- jeden Tag
- jede Nacht
- jedes Wochenende
- jeden Sommer

VI. All sentences with the linking verbs **sein** or **werden** have all nouns in **nominative case**.

z. B. Dieses Gemüse ist der Spinat.
Der Mann ist der Lehrer in der Klasse.

VII. Do you see any pronouns and can you identify their case?

<u>nom</u>	<u>acc</u>	<u>dat</u>	<u>nom</u>	<u>acc</u>	<u>dat</u>
ich	mich	mir	wir	uns	uns
du	dich	dir	ihr	euch	euch
er	ihn	ihm	sie	sie	ihnen
sie	sie	ihr	Sie	Sie	Ihnen
es	es	ihm			