

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

Episode 022 – Grammar

1. The possessive determiners "sein" and "ihr"

Possessive determiners can be a substitute for definite or indefinite articles. They indicate that something belongs to someone or something else. Which possessive determiner to use in a sentence depends on the gender of the living being, thing or context to which the object belongs.

Examples:

Seine Stiefel waren hellbraun. (= The boots belong to a man. His boots were light brown.)

Ihre Stiefel waren hellbraun. (= The boots belong to a woman. Her boots were light brown.)

In German, the possessive determiners follow the same pattern of declension as the indefinite article "ein" and refer to the noun that they precede.

		Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Plural
Indefinite article		<i>ein</i>	<i>eine</i>	<i>ein</i>	/
Possessive determiner	er	sein Mantel	seine Hand	sein Haar	seine Stiefel
	sie	ihr Mantel	ihre Hand	ihr Haar	ihre Stiefel

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More:

German has four cases. In this chart you can see how the possessive determiners change according to case. In the singular the endings are the same as with indefinite articles.

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Plural
Nominative	<i>ein Mantel</i> <i>sein Mantel</i> <i>ihr Mantel</i>	<i>eine Hand</i> <i>seine Hand</i> <i>ihre Hand</i>	<i>ein Haar</i> <i>sein Haar</i> <i>ihr Haar</i>	<i>Stiefel</i> <i>seine Stiefel</i> <i>ihre Stiefel</i>
Accusative	<i>einen Mantel</i> <i>seinen Mantel</i> <i>ihren Mantel</i>	<i>eine Hand</i> <i>seine Hand</i> <i>ihre Hand</i>	<i>ein Haar</i> <i>sein Haar</i> <i>ihr Haar</i>	<i>Stiefel</i> <i>seine Stiefel</i> <i>ihre Stiefel</i>
Dative	<i>einem Mantel</i> <i>seinem Mantel</i> <i>ihrem Mantel</i>	<i>einer Hand</i> <i>seiner Hand</i> <i>ihrer Hand</i>	<i>einem Haar</i> <i>seinem Haar</i> <i>ihrem Haar</i>	<i>Stiefeln</i> <i>seinen Stiefeln</i> <i>ihren Stiefeln</i>
Genitive	<i>eines Mantels</i> <i>seines Mantels</i> <i>ihres Mantels</i>	<i>einer Hand</i> <i>seiner Hand</i> <i>ihrer Hand</i>	<i>eines Haares</i> <i>seines Haares</i> <i>ihres Haares</i>	<i>Stiefel</i> <i>seiner Stiefel</i> <i>ihrer Stiefel</i>

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2. The question words "welcher", "welche", "welches"

The words "welcher", "welche" and "welches" can be used to begin a question. You can use them to ask about someone or something in particular or to choose something from a certain contingent.

Examples:

*Ich suche eine Frau. – **Welche** Frau?*

***Welche** Farbe hatten ihre Schuhe? – Weiß.*

The question words reflect the number, gender and case of the noun they modify:

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter
Nominative	<i>welcher</i>	<i>welche</i>	<i>welches</i>
Accusative	<i>welchen</i>	<i>welche</i>	<i>welches</i>
Dative	<i>welchem</i>	<i>welcher</i>	<i>welchem</i>
Genitive	<i>welches</i>	<i>welcher</i>	<i>welches</i>