

This and which (dieser / welcher)

— ARTIKELWÖRTER

Words that stand before a noun to point at it or ask about it: dieser, welcher, jeder, mancher.

The words behind “this car” and “which car” change their endings exactly like der/die/das do.

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01 00:10

Right now: if you know der/die/das, you already know these

SHORTCUT ⚡ dieser (this), welcher (which), jeder (every) and mancher (some) are called the **der-words**, because they change their endings exactly like **der, die, das**. Whatever the article of the noun is, that is how the word ends.

✓ **Welcher** Wein ist gut?

Which wine is good?

✓ Ich nehme **diesen** Wein.

I'll take this wine.

✓ **Jedes** Kind spielt gern.

Every child likes to play.

English never changes this word — German does

In English the pointing word is fixed (“this car”, “I like this car”). In German the word in front of the noun (**dieser**) swallows the article’s ending and changes with it.

ENGLISH	GERMAN	LOGIC
This man	dieser Mann	der → dieser
This man (object)	diesen Mann	den → diesen
Which car?	welches Auto?	das → welches

As you can see, the last letters of **der/den/das** stick to the pointing and question words.

- ×

Ich kenne ~~dieser~~ Mann.

I know this man.
- ✓

Ich kenne **diesen** Mann.

I know this man.

Table: how the der-words change

These words change exactly like the definite article (der/die/das).

KASUS	MASCULIN (DER)	FEMINIM (DIE)	NEUTRAL (DAS)	PLURAL (DIE)
Nom (subject)	dieser	diese	dieses	diese
Akk (direct object)	diesen	diese	dieses	diese
Dat (indirect object)	diesem	dieser	diesem	diesen

welcher, jeder, mancher, solcher change by exactly this table (by their last letters) too.

- ×

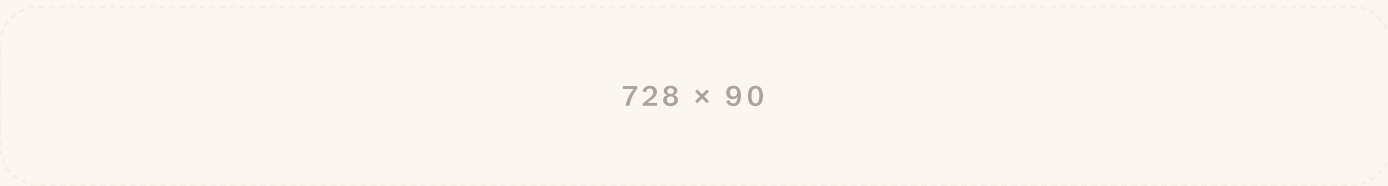
In ~~welches~~ Haus wohnst du?

Which house do you live in?
- ✓

In **welchem** Haus wohnst du?

Which house do you live in?

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04 04:00

The one place people go wrong: welcher vs was für ein



TRAP 1

Which and what kind of

- ✓ — **Welches** Auto kaufst du?
Which car are you buying? (from a known set of options)
- ✓ — **Ich kaufe dieses** Auto.
This car (pointing at it).
- ✓ — **Was für ein** Auto kaufst du?
What kind of car are you buying? (asking about type or quality)
- ✓ — **Ich kaufe ein schnelles** Auto.
A fast car (naming a type).

If the options are known (one of two pens on the table), use **welcher**. If you are asking about a type or a quality, use **was für ein**.

05 05:30

The part nobody tells you: der da instead of dieser

In writing, **dieser** and **jener** (that) are used a lot. In speech, though, Germans usually prefer to say simply **der da** (the one there) instead.

- ✓ **Möchten Sie diesen** Apfel?
Would you like this apple? (formal/written)
- ✓ **Möchtest du den da**?
Do you want that one? (everyday speech)

In daily life, when you point at something, it is very common to add **da** (there) or **hier** (here) next to the article.

06 BUILD

Build the sentence yourself

Tap the words and put them in order. This is the hardest part of German — and there are no options to pick from, **you** build it.

TAP THE WORDS

TAP THE WORDS

TAP THE WORDS

06 07:20

Test yourself

Tap an answer — we will look at why together.

+4

Take the full test

10 questions · timed · rule breakdown at the end



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