

Nouns from verbs and adjectives

— DIE NOMINALISIERUNG

Nominalization in German means forming nouns from verbs and adjectives with the endings -ung, -heit, -keit, -er, or with das + infinitive.

German turns verbs and adjectives into nouns with a small set of endings, much like English does with -tion, -ness or -er. The difference: every German ending brings a fixed gender (article) with it.

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01 00:15

Right now: nouns from verbs (-ung)

⚡ **SHORTCUT** Add **-ung** to the verb stem to make a noun. This ending always brings the article **die**.

VERB	NOUN	MEANING
entscheiden	die Entscheidung	decision
wohnen	die Wohnung	apartment / flat
üben	die Übung	exercise

✓ Das ist eine wichtige Entscheidung**ung**.

That is an important decision.

02 01:30

Nouns from adjectives (-heit / -keit)

To turn adjectives into nouns you use **-heit** or **-keit** — like English -ness or -dom. These also always take the article **die**.

ADJECTIVE	NOUN	MEANING
frei	die Freiheit	freedom
krank	die Krankheit	illness
möglich	die Möglichkeit	possibility / opportunity

As a rule, -heit goes on a plain adjective, and -keit goes on adjectives ending in -ig, -lich or -bar. (Some adjectives ending in -er, like sauber, also take -keit: die Sauberkeit).

- ✓ **Gesundheit ist wichtiger als Schönheit.**

Health is more important than beauty.

03 02:45

The easiest: das + infinitive

You can turn any verb into a noun without changing it at all: just capitalise the first letter and put **das** in front. It becomes a noun for the action, like the English “-ing” noun (reading, writing).

- ✓ **Das Lesen macht mir Spaß.**

Reading is fun for me.

- ✓ **Beim Essen darf man nicht sprechen.**

You mustn't talk while eating. (bei dem Essen = beim Essen)

04 03:45

Making people (-er)

To name the person who does the verb, add **-er** to the stem — the same idea as English teach → teacher. These persons are masculine, so they always take **der** (for women, add -in).

VERB	PERSON (NOUN)	MEANING
lehren	der Lehrer	teacher
fahren	der Fahrer	driver

- ✓ **Er ist ein guter Fahrer.**

He is a good driver.

05 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

TIPS

Know this before the test

The core of the topic in three lines, then the mistakes people make most often.

01

-ung, -heit and -keit always take die

The gender of nouns with these endings never changes: it is always **die** (feminine).

die Wohnung, die Freiheit, die Möglichkeit

02

das + infinitive makes the action a noun

If you capitalise the infinitive of a verb and put **das** in front of it, it becomes a noun.

das Lesen, das Schreiben

✗ ~~Der Wohnung ist groß.~~

✓ Die Wohnung ist groß.

The ending -ung always takes die.

05 05 : 00

Test yourself

Tap an answer — we will look at why together.

+4

Finish the topic: take the full test

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