

Simple German Article Rules III – Masculine/He Nouns

Let's continue with the masculine version: **The article "DER"**

A) People

der Vater = the father
der Sohn = the son
der Bruder = the brother
der Onkel = the uncle

- Nouns that refer to males/men have the article "DER".

der Lehrer = the teacher
der Fahrer = the driver
der Schauspieler = the actor
der Künstler = the artist

- Nouns ending –er describing professions, job titles and positions have the article "DER". Please be careful with other nouns ending –er that don't belong in above categories as they can have a different article.

der Lehrling = the trainee
der Neuling = the newbie
der Liebling = the darling
der Sonderling = the nerd/oddball

- Nouns describing people ending in –ling use "DER"

der Egoist = the egoist
der Kommunist = the communist
der Polizist = the police man
der Komponist = the composer

- Nouns ending –ist use "DER"



Generally speaking are all professions and job titles masculine which certainly has historical roots. If you address a female person you would have to add –in to the noun such as:

der Tischler	→ die Tischlerin	= the carpenter
der Bäcker	→ die Bäckerin	= the baker
der Arzt	→ die Ärztin	= the physician
der Ingenieur	→ die Ingenieurin	= the engineer

Some endings refer to people and things at the same time.

der Rentner	= the pensioner
der Zöllner	= the customs collector
der Rechner	= the calculator
der Zeichner	= the drawer/illustrator

The ending –ner uses the article “DER”

B) Things

der Rhythmus	= the rhythm
der Rhombus	= the rhomb
der Bambus	= the bamboo
der Modus	= the mode

All nouns ending –us have the article “DER”

der Kapitalismus	= the capitalism
der Feudalismus	= the feudalism
der Optimismus	= the optimism
der Alkoholismus	= the alcoholism

Nouns with –ismus in the end have the article “DER”



der Bottich = the barrel
der Teppich = the rug
der Rettich = the radish
der Sittich = the parakeet

Nouns ending in -ich are masculine and have "DER"

der Herbst = fall/autumn
der Januar = January
der Winter = winter
der Mittwoch = Wednesday

The days of the week, the months and the seasons are masculine and use "DER"

der Jeep
der ICE
der Mercedes
der BMW

All car brands and train names are masculine and use "DER". The only exception found so far is "die Corvette"

der Wein = the wine
der Schnaps = the booze
der Sekt = the sparkling wine
der Cocktail = the cocktail

Alcoholic beverages have the article "DER". Exceptions are: das Bier = the beer, die Margarita

der Süden = the south
der Nordost = the northeast
der Föhn = the foehn (warm wind from the alps)
der Osten = the east

Points of compass, map locations and names for winds are masculine and use "DER".



der Regen = the rain
der Schnee = the snow
der Nebel = the fog
der Rauheif = the hoar/glazed frost

Participation use the article "DER".

The personal pronoun for nouns with the masculine article is "er".

Der Teppich war neu. **Er** sah schön aus. = The rug was new. It looked beautiful.

The plural for masculine nouns in general is formed in multiple ways. We will discuss that in detail in a following paper.

