4.4 Definite and indefinite time expressions

Expressions indicating a definite time point or period use either the accusative or a preposition + dative (15.2); indefinite time expressions generally use the genitive.

■ 4.4.1 Definite time expressions

jeden Tag/**jede** Woche	*every day/week*
alle zwei Stunden/Tage	*every two hours/days*
den ganzen Tag (lang)	*all day (long)*
dies**en** Freitag	*this Friday*
(**den**/**am**) nächsten Mittwoch	*next Wednesday*
am Morgen/Abend	*in the morning/evening*
am Tag/in **der** Nacht	*by day/by night*
im August/Sommer	*in August/summer*
einmal **am** Tag/**im** Jahr	*once a day/a year*
ab Dienstag/9 Uhr	*from Tuesday/9 o'clock*
bis Freitag/11 Uhr	*by Friday/11 o'clock*

Note that **an** (+ dative) is generally used with days or parts of the day and **in** (+ dative) with months and seasons.

■ 4.4.2 Indefinite time expressions

a Genitive nouns used as set expressions

eines Morgens/Abends	*one morning/evening*
ein**es** Nachts/eines Tages	*one night/one day*

Note: **eines Nachts** although **die Nacht** is feminine.

b Genitives of time treated as simple adverbs

morgens/abends	*in the mornings/evenings*
wochentags	*on weekdays*
montags, dienstags, etc.	*on Mondays, Tuesdays, etc.*
mittwochs nachmittags	*on Wednesday afternoons*

5 Articles

Like English, German has a definite and an indefinite article. The definite article is used to refer to a particular example of a noun:

der Mann *(the man)*, **die** Frau *(the woman)*

The indefinite article refers to an unspecified example:

ein Mann *(a man)*, **eine** Frau *(a woman)*

In German, both definite and indefinite articles agree with the noun to which they refer in gender (masculine, feminine or neuter), in number (singular or plural) and in case (nominative, accusative, dative or genitive – see 8 Nouns and cases).

5.1 Formation of articles

■ 5.1.1 The definite article

	singular			plural
	masculine	feminine	neuter	all genders
nom.	**der** Mann	**die** Frau	**das** Buch	**die** Bücher
acc.	**den** Mann	**die** Frau	**das** Buch	**die** Bücher
dat.	**dem** Mann	**der** Frau	**dem** Buch	**den** Büchern
gen.	**des** Mann(e)s	**der** Frau	**des** Buch(e)s	**der** Bücher

Common pronouns following the same pattern as the definite article (see 14.4.1 for forms) are:

aller *(all)*	jener *(that)*
dieser *(this)*	mancher *(many a)*
einiger *(some)*	sämtlicher *(all, entire)*
irgendwelcher *(some or other)*	solcher *(such, such a)*
jeder *(every)*	welcher *(which, some)*

For the declension of adjectives following the definite article (or pronouns which have the same pattern) see 9.2.1.