

- many nouns ending in -e in the nominative singular, e.g.:
der Bote (*messenger*), der Franzose (*Frenchman*)

	singular	plural
nom.	der Mensch	die Menschen
acc.	den Menschen	die Menschen
dat.	dem Menschen	den Menschen
gen.	des Menschen	der Menschen

b Irregular nouns

- Eight weak nouns ending in -e add -ns in the genitive singular:
der Buchstabe (*letter*), der Friede (*peace*), der Funke (*spark*), der Gedanke (*thought*), der Glaube (*belief*), der Name (*name*), der Same (*seed*), der Wille (*will*)
- The weak noun **der Herr** adds -n in the singular (accusative, dative, genitive) but -en in the plural (all cases).
- The neuter noun **das Herz** adds -ens in the genitive singular, and -en in the dative singular and in all cases in the plural.

■ 8.2.4 Adjectival nouns

Nouns derived from adjectives retain their adjectival endings (see 9.2.1–3 for declension when preceded by a definite article, indefinite article or no article), e.g.:

der bekannte Pianist	<i>the well-known pianist</i>
der Bekannte	<i>the acquaintance</i>
ein bekannter Schriftsteller	<i>a well-known author</i>
ein Bekannter von mir	<i>an acquaintance of mine</i>
Ich habe das Buch einem Bekannten geliehen.	<i>I lent the book to an acquaintance.</i>

9 Adjectives

Adjectives are words like **rot** (*red*), **weiß** (*white*) and **schmutzig** (*dirty*); they describe a noun. As in English, they can precede the noun or can be separated from it by a verb:

Ich ziehe die **weiße** Bluse an. *I put on the white blouse.*
Die Bluse ist **schmutzig**. *The blouse is dirty.*

9.1 Position of adjectives

In German, unlike in English, adjectives take different forms depending on whether they immediately precede or are separated from a noun in the sentence.

- **9.1.1** When the adjective immediately precedes the noun, it adds an ending which changes to agree with the noun in number (singular or plural), gender (masculine, feminine or neuter) and case (nominative, accusative, etc.).

Das ist $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{ein neuer Rock.} \\ \text{eine schöne Bluse.} \\ \text{ein schwarzes Kleid.} \end{array} \right.$ *This is* $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{a new skirt.} \\ \text{a nice blouse.} \\ \text{a black dress.} \end{array} \right.$

- **9.1.2** When the adjective is separated from the noun, it has no ending.

Der Rock ist **neu**. *The skirt is new.*
Deine Bluse finde ich **schön**. *I think your blouse is nice.*
Das Kleid ist **schwarz**. *The dress is black.*