

Definite and Indefinite Articles

“Definite” article means “the” in English. The German definite articles are:

<i>masculine</i>	der	<u>der Hund</u>	(<u>the</u> dog)
<i>feminine</i>	die	<u>die Katze</u>	(<u>the</u> cat)
<i>neuter</i>	das	<u>das Kind</u>	(<u>the</u> child)
<i>plural</i>	die	<u>die Bücher</u>	(<u>the</u> books)

“Indefinite” article means “a” or “an” in English. The German indefinite articles are:

<i>masculine</i>	ein	<u>ein Hund</u>	(<u>a</u> dog)
<i>feminine</i>	eine	<u>eine Katze</u>	(<u>a</u> cat)
<i>neuter</i>	ein	<u>ein Kind</u>	(<u>a</u> child)
<i>plural</i>	—	<u>Bücher</u>	(books)

Notes:

- Remember that all plural nouns use **‘die’**, no matter their original gender in the singular!
- The German word **“ein”** does mean **“one”**, but it is inflected for **gender**. Masculine and neuter **“ein”** has no ending. Feminine **“eine”** gets an **-e** to match the feminine gender. In future learning, we will call these the **“ein-word”** endings.
- There is **no plural version** of **“ein”** – just like you can’t say **“a books”**, since by definition, the word **“a”** or **“ein”** is **singular**. You simply say “books” or “Bücher” without any article. In future learning, we will see ways to add the **-e** for plural, such as **“meine Bücher”** (my books), but the word **‘ein’** can only be singular.