

Advent Calendar 11 - "A case for a coffee"

by German-is-easy - Sunday, December 11, 2016

<https://yourdailygerman.com/exercise-accusative-dative/>

Hi guys

and welcome back to day 11 of our Advent Calendar, Sunday to be precise and today we're in for a little

exercise on case and case endings

Uhm... yeah.

Some of you're now like "No man, not on a Sunday!! I shan't partake!!" and that's okay. I understand. And I got you covered. If you don't want to hustle Accusative and Dative then you can skip right down to a nice Sunday-ish song with landscape images in 3, 2, 1... go.

[No workout on Sundays](#)

Still here. Cool :).

So... on the surface, it's a pretty classic, standard exercise. There's a sentence with some articles or pronouns missing and you have to pick the right one. But there's one important difference....

The thing is... it's hard to know when to use which case to begin with but what makes it a REAL pain to practice are: the genders. Because getting the case right is never enough. Endings also depend on gender, so even if you nailed the case, your answer might still be wrong because you used the wrong gender. That creates frustration and it's a distraction because you constantly think about gender, which is NOT what you want to practice at that moment.

That's why I think in an exercise on cases, it makes a lot of sense to side-line the gender as much as possible so it doesn't constantly interfere.

And that's exactly what I did in this work sheet. How? All the things in question are masculine. So there's no "Oh man, I know it's accusative but is it *eine Tisch* or *einen Tisch*." Your focus is on cases all the time, and while you work on your cases, you pick up a few genders on the fly. That's what makes sense

Now, the whole thing still might be a bit tricky or hard because you have a lot of choices. *Der, dem, den, einen, keinen, er, ihm*

[German Cases Exercise - Masculine \(pdf\)](#)

How to use the work sheet:

The idea is that you really work with it and do it multiple times (doing it once won't help!!). So DO NOT write your solution into the gap. Note it on an extra paper, or just do it in your mind. Or (and that's the

best) do it while reading the sentence out loud. The solutions are right next to each line because it sucks to look for them in a tiny block at the bottom of the page. Just cover them or zoom in so you can't see them.

Do it several times over the course of a few weeks until you get everything correct when reading it out loud.

That repetition will ingrain common patterns in your mind, you'll get a better feel for cases in general and as a bonus, you'll also automatically learn the gender of a bunch of things, because everything is masculine :)

So have fun with the case work out. And let me know what you think. Do you like this kind of exercise? Does it work for you? Do you think it makes sense to skip gender like this? And was it too difficult with all the different choices? Would it be better to narrow it down to one aspect; pronouns (*er, ihn, ihm*) or articles (*der, dem, den* and *ein, einen, einem*) ?

And what kinds of exercises have worked for you?

Let me know your thoughts and questions in the comments and enter the competition for today's little giveaway.

Schönen Tag euch und bis morgen.

I don't work out on Sundays

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQiZ-ElseyM>