Simple German Article Patterns I – Feminine/She Nouns

Learning the correct German article with each noun can be challenging sometimes. These simple rules you can use to simplify this process and to structure your learning.

Let’s get started with the feminine version: The article “DIE”

A) People

die Frau = the woman
die Mutter = the mother
die Tante = the aunt
die Tochter = the daughter

The feminine article “DIE” is used for females/women.

die Lehrerin = the (female) teacher
die Ärztin = the (female) physician
die Unternehmerin = the business woman
die Trainerin = the (female) trainer
die Managerin = the (female) manager
die Direktorin = the (female) director
die Politikerin = the (female) politician
die Königin = the queen

Professions, job titles and social positions for all females/women are expressed through the ending –in and use the article “DIE”.

B) Things

die Rose = the rose
die Frage = the question
die Lampe = the lamp
die Zitrone = the lemon
die Melone = the melon

You may notice that all of these words end in –e.
Most of the nouns ending in –e are indeed feminine – have the article “DIE” (two of the exception are: der Hase = the rabbit, der Käse = the cheese)
die Übung = the exercise
die Bewegung = the movement
die Berührung = the touch
die Nahrung = the food

All of these nouns end in –ung and have the article “DIE”

die Schönheit = the beauty
die Krankheit = the decease
die Freiheit = the freedom
die Gesundheit = the health

die Dankbarkeit = the thankfullness
die Sauberkeit = the cleanliness
die Wichtigkeit = the importance

These nouns end in –heit and -keit always have the article “DIE”

die Nation
die Station
die Tradition
die Expedition
die Konversation

die Explosion
die Division
die Vision
die Fusion

I assume that for these nouns you won’t need the translation 😊 Nouns ending in –tion and –sion have the article “DIE”

die Eigenschaft = the characteristic
die Mannschaft = the team
die Landschaft = the landscape
die Kundschaft = the customer base

The ending –schaft always uses “DIE”
die Kamera
die Pizza
die Algebra
die Kobra

Most of the nouns ending in –a are feminine and use “DIE”

die Diktatur = the dictatorship
die Agentur = the agency
die Miniatur = the miniature
die Temperatur = the temperature
die Natur = the nature

Most of the nouns with -ur in the end use “DIE”

die Technik = the technology
die Optik = the optics, the lenses
die Physik = physics
die Mathematik = mathematics

All Nouns with -ik in the end will use “DIE”

die Universität = the university
die Solidarität = the solidarity
die Normalität = the normality

All nouns with –tät are feminine and use “DIE”

die Konferenz
die Torbulenz
die Insolvenz
die Potenz

Nouns with –enz ending have the article “DIE”
die Magie = the magic
die Strategie = the strategy
die Tragödie = the tragedy
die Komödie = the comedy

Nouns ending –ie are feminine too and have the article “DIE”

Most of the nouns above are actually borrowed from other languages like Greek, Latin, French and of course English. A lot of them you’ll even recognize in their English version.

die Meuterei = the mutiny
die Schweinerei = the mess
die Fliegerei = the flying
die Angeberei = swaggering, showing-off

All nouns ending in –ei are feminine and have the article “DIE”

die Eins
die Hundert
die Million
die Tausend

Numerals have the article “DIE”

You might have noticed that a lot of nouns have foreign influence and in some case almost look the same as the English noun. The other important thing to know is that all feminine nouns use the personal pronoun “sie”.
Example: Wo ist die Flasche? Sie ist auf dem Tisch. = Where is the bottle? It is on the table.

The plural in general is formed by adding an –en or –n to the singular. Only the nouns ending on add an –s in their plural. More to the plural will be discussed in a later paper.