

**Using the genitive
case to express
possession**

Typical word order in English:

**This is my
father's car.**

Typical word order in German:

**This is the car of my
father.**

In the phrase
“the car of my father”,
one must use the
genitive case for “of
my father”.

In order to select the correct genitive article or ending, you must know the gender (article) of your noun. Make the following changes for the genitive case:

	masculine (der)	feminine (die)	neuter (das)	plural (die)
genitive	des (-s)	der	des (-s)	der

Let's put "of my father" in the genitive case.

the father = der Vater



	masculine (der)	feminine (die)	neuter (das)	plural (die)
genitive	des (-s)	der	des (-s)	der

the father = der Vater

	masculine (der)
genitive	des (-s)

des Vaters

When changing an article to 'des',
you must also add an 's' to the noun.

About that 's' on the noun...

If the noun only has one syllable, you need to add an 'e' before that 's'.

der Vater – **des** Vaters

das Buch – **des** Buches

If you are using a word other than 'the' (such as 'my' or 'these'), you look at 'des' or 'der' for the proper ending.



des Vaters

meines Vaters

Our original sentence:

This is my father's car.

becomes:

**Das ist das Auto meines
Vaters.**

If you don't know your articles, all of this information is kind of useless.

Remember, every time you learn/study a noun, you MUST learn the article.

Don't learn that
dog = Hund!

Learn that
dog = der Hund.