

What is Dative Case?

Worksheet

The dative case is the indirect object case in German. It answers the question 'To/for whom?' and identifies who or what benefits from the action.

Questions

1. Which word is dative in 'Er hilft dem Lehrer'?
A) Er
B) hilft
C) dem Lehrer
D) nothing
2. What question does dative answer?
A) Wer?
B) Wen?
C) Wem?
D) Wessen?
3. The dative case is used for...
A) the direct object
B) the subject
C) the indirect object
D) possession
4. Which verb commonly takes dative?
A) sehen (to see)
B) lesen (to read)
C) helfen (to help)
D) kicken (to kick)
5. Ich gebe dem Mann ein Buch. (I give the man a book.) — What case is 'Mann'?
6. Sie zeigt dem Kind die Bilder. (She shows the child the pictures.) — Identify dative.
7. Wir helfen der Frau. (We help the woman.) — Which word is dative?
8. Define: What is the dative case?
9. Define: What question does dative answer?
10. Define: Give an example of dative.

Answer Key

1. C) dem Lehrer — 'dem Lehrer' is the indirect object (who receives help) — dative case.
2. C) Wem? — Wem? (To/for whom?) asks for the indirect object — the dative case.
3. C) the indirect object — Dative marks the indirect object — who or what benefits from the action.
4. C) helfen (to help) — 'helfen' regularly takes dative: helfen + Wem? = dative.
5. dem Mann = indirect object The man is who receives the benefit (the book) Answer: Dative case
6. dem Kind = indirect object The child is who the pictures are shown to Answer: Dative case
7. der Frau = indirect object The woman is who receives help Answer: Dative case
8. The case of the indirect object — the noun that benefits from the action.
9. Wem? (To/for whom?)
10. Ich gebe dem Mann ein Buch. (I give the man a book.) — 'dem Mann' is dative.

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