

## *Herr Lemon's Maxims*

### *A. Prepositions*

1. **aus, außer, bei, mit, nach, seit, von, zu, gegenüber** take the *dative* only!
2. **bis, durch, für, gegen, ohne, um, wider** take the *accusative* only!
3. **(an)statt, trotz, während, wegen** take the *genitive* only!
4. Most other prepositions will be *two-way prepositions*. Remember:

with *dative* (**wo**) = *location*

with *accusative* (**wohin**) = *destination*

### *B. Conjunctions*

1. **und, oder, aber, denn, sondern, doch** are coordinating conjunctions and *do not change word order!*
2. Other conjunctions will be subordinating words which will send the *verb to the end of the clause or sentence*.
3. **wenn, als** link events; in the past, **als** refers to a single event; **wenn** = “whenever”
4. **wann** always asks “at what point in time”?
5. **wenn** = “if”, but if “if” can be replaced by “whether”, you must use **ob**.
6. **da, weil** are subordinating conjunctions; use **da** in a first clause, **weil** in a second clause. **denn** is a coordinating conjunction and does not send the verb to the end as do **da** and **weil**.

### *C. Verbs*

1. **danken, helfen, glauben, antworten, gefallen, gehören, schmecken, passen, folgen** take an object in the *dative* !
2. Verbs of giving, showing, telling and the like, take a *dative of the person* and an *accusative of the thing*.
3. Verbs that can take *objects* form the past with **haben**. Verbs that cannot take objects, such as verbs of *motion, rest, and change of state*, form the past with **sein**.
4. Remember! No accusatives after **sein**! 90% of all German verbs **do** take an accusative.

#### *D. Cases*

1. An **accusative** case in German exists only in pronouns and words associated with the **masculine singular**. All other accusatives are identical with the nominative.
2. After **dies-, jed-, letzt-, vorig-, nächst-, ganz-** expect the **accusative of definite time** with masculine singular time-words such as days of the week, months, seasons, and times of day.
3. Everything in the **dative plural** ends in **-n** or **-en!**

#### *E. Der- and Ein-words*

1. The **der**-words are **der, dieser, jeder, jener, mancher, solcher, welcher**.
2. The **ein**-words are **ein, kein, mein, dein, sein, ihr, unser, euer, Ihr**.
3. **Ein**-words have **no** endings in the nominative singular masculine and neuter, and in the accusative singular neuter. Otherwise they are like **der**-words.

#### *F. Adjective Endings after Der- and Ein-words*

1. **das** is always followed by **-e**.
2. **-em** is always followed by **-en**.
3. **-en** is always followed by **-en**.
4. If an **ein**-word has no ending, the adjective ending will be **-er** or **-es**.
5. All plural and dative adjective endings after **ein-** and **der**-words are **-en**.

#### *G. Word Order*

1. Let S = subject, V<sub>1</sub> = main verb, V<sub>2</sub> = verbal complement, SW = subordinating word, parentheses = optional components and P = everything else. Word order in German statements can then be expressed by only three formulae:
  - a. S + V<sub>1</sub> + (P + V<sub>2</sub>) – Normal word order
  - b. P<sub>1</sub> + V<sub>1</sub> + S + (P<sub>2</sub> + V<sub>2</sub>) – Inverted word order
  - c. SW + S + (P + V<sub>2</sub>) + V<sub>1</sub> – Verb last (subordinate) word order
2. **TMP** = **T**ime (when?), **M**anner (how?), **P**lace (where?)

3. Order of pronoun and noun objects:
  - a. **dem Mann, den Kuli** (dative before accusative nouns)
  - b. **ihn, dem Mann** (pronouns before nouns)
  - c. **ihm, den Kuli** (pronouns before nouns)
  - d. **ihn, ihm** (accusative before dative pronouns)
4. **Nicht** normally *precedes* anything it modifies except *objects* (accusatives and datives) and *definite time expressions*.

#### *H. Miscellaneous*

1. **Nicht + ein = kein** unless you mean “not a single.”
2. Something which *started* (or ended) in the *past* and is (or is not) *still going on* puts the verb in the *present tense* with a **schon** or **seit** time expression.
3. **Haben, sein,** and the *modal auxiliaries* use the *narrative past* even in conversation.
4. When referring to *parts of one's body or articles of clothing*, use the *dative reflexive pronoun* and the *definite article*.