

Strong (+) vs. Weak (-)

	Definite Articles			
	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	Pl.
Nominative	der	die	das	die
Accusative	den	die	das	die
Dative	dem	der	dem	den
Genitive	des	der	des	der

Do you see how similar the strong endings are to the definite articles?! ☺

	Strong Endings +			
	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	Pl.
Nominative	-er	-e	-es	-e
Accusative	-en	-e	-es	-e
Dative	-em	-er	-em	-en
Genitive	-es	-er	-es	-er

Think of them as **strong +** because they, are strong enough to, show gender, case, and number! ☺



Das Mädchen ist sieben Jahre alt.
Nom., Neut., Sing. ☺

Das Mädchen will **den** Ball.
Acc., Masc., Sing. ☺

Das Mädchen hilft **dem** Mann.
Dat., Masc., Sing. ☺


Der Ball **des** Mädchens ist rot.
Gen., Neut., Sing. ☺

Note: Masc. and Neut. nouns take an **-es** ending in the genitive and all nouns endings in a **s**-sound. If not, the ending **-s** is used as above.

	Weak Endings -			
	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	Pl.
Nominative	-e	-e	-e	-en
Accusative	-en	-e	-e	-en
Dative	-en	-en	-en	-en
Genitive	-en	-en	-en	-en

Think of them as **weak -** because they **cannot** show gender, case, and number! ☹



Note the  toothbrush shape! ☺
The **-e** endings **only** take place in the (Masc. Nom.), (Neut., Nom., and Acc.), and (Fem., Nom., and Acc.). EASY!

Using **strong** and **weak** endings: Remember only the strong ending shows gender, case, and number!

Das süße Mädchen ist fünf Jahre alt.
Das Mädchen will **den** roten Ball.
Das Mädchen hilft **dem** alten Mann.
Der Ball **des** süßen Mädchens ist rot.

Suggestion: Since you already know the definite articles. Now, just memorize the weak adjective endings!