

Deutsch Happen

**INTERACTIVE
ONLINE
EXERCISES
FOR LEARNERS
OF GERMAN
AS A FOREIGN
LANGUAGE**

**Video Lesson V-G0015
Sie & Ihnen
you in different cases**





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First published 2008

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The use of Sie & Ihnen

Hello. This is Kirsten of Deutsch Happen and in today's video I will answer a question, that many of you have had in the last weeks. What is the difference between “**Sie**” and “**Ihnen**” and when do I have to use them.

First of all you have to know that **in German we decline our nouns**. That means we have **four different cases** and the noun changes its form depending on the case. As “**Sie**” is a **pronoun** the same rule applies.

“**Sie**” with a capital **S** is the formal/polite you in the german language in the **nominative case**. “**Ihnen**” with a capital **I** is still the same word, so you in english, it's just declined in the **dative case**.

Here are two examples:

Was möchten **Sie** trinken?
*What would **you** like to drink?*

Kann ich **Ihnen** etwas zu trinken anbieten?
*May I offer **you** something to drink?*

To help you to indentify the cases we ask ourselves a question in german and we use different question words for each case.

In the nominative and when I want to ask for a person, I ask “**who**” “**wer**”.
So in our first example:

“**Who** wants to drink something?” or “**Who** gets a drink?” Answer: **You**
“**Wer** will etwas zu trinken?” or “**Wer** bekommt ein Getränk?” Answer: **Sie**

So you “**Sie**” is the **subject** and that shows us a **nominative case**.

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In the dative case we ask ourselves “**whom**” “**wem**”.
Second example:

“**Whom** can I offer a drink?” Answer: **You**

“**Wem** kann ich etwas zu trinken anbieten?” Answer: **Ihnen**

So you “**Ihnen**” is the **object** of the sentence and that shows us a **dative case**.

Ok, I hope this made it a bit clearer to you.

If you are watching this video on deutschhappen.com you will find a link underneath the video that leads you to a free exercise where you can check, what you have learnt.

If you are watching this video on YouTube, click on the link in the description right next to the video, to go to the exercise.

See you soon for more video lessons.

Take care! Bye!



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Exercise

Fill in the correct form. Either in the nominative or in the dative case.

Können ___ mir bitte sagen, wie ich zum Bahnhof komme?
Could you please tell me how I get to the train station?

Da gehen ___ hier geradeaus und dann die zweite Straße links.
You go from here straight ahead and then the second street on the left.

Kann ich ___ helfen?
May I help you?

Können ___ mir bitte sagen, in welchem Stock der Zahnarzt ist?
Can you tell me please on which floor is the dentist?

Was kann ich für ___ tun?
What can I do for you?

Ich möchte mit ___ über eine Gehaltserhöhung sprechen.
Ich would like to talk to you about a pay raise.

Entschuldigung, sind ___ Frau Schmidt?
Excuse me, are you Misses Schmidt?

Ja, und ___ sind Herr Schulz, nehme ich an?
Yes, and you are Mister Schulz, I suppose?

Ich wünsche ___ einen guten Tag.
I wish you a nice day.

Danke, ___ auch.
Thank you, for you the same.

[Click here for the correct answers.](#)