

Dopełniacz

When do we use it?

1. Negation of Accusative Case/Biernik

Accusative vs. Genitive

- Lubię twojego psa. – Nie lubię **twojego psa**.
- Oglądam głupi film. – Nie oglądam **głupiego filmu**.
- Czytam interesującą książkę. – Nie czytam **interesującej książki**.
- Jem zimne jajko. – Nie jem **zimnego jajka**.

Ale! But be careful because it doesn't change after Accusative prepositions!

- Pytam o twoją siostrę. – *I'm asking about your sister.* (Accusative)
- Nie pytam o twoją siostrę. – *I'm not asking about your sister.* (Accusative)

Remember Genitive case is not used in negations of other cases.

2. Possessive Genitive

- To jest kot **mojego brata**. – *This is my brother's car.*
- Historia **amerykańskiego filmu** jest interesująca. – *The history of American film is interesting.*
- Gdzie jest dom **twojej mamy**? – *Where is your mum's house?*
- Poproszę kieliszek **czerwonego wina**. – *A glass of red wine please.*

- ✓ When two nouns (or noun phrases) meet, the second will be in Genitive. The case of the first noun doesn't matter.
- ✓ As you see in the examples Genitive can replace both 's and of in English. It's used not only to say who owns what, but also when you talk about e.g. containers (kieliszek wina).

3. In statements after certain verbs

The list of verbs which take Genitive is long but here I mention only the basic ones:

Szukać

Szukam nowego chłopaka. *I'm looking for a new boyfriend.*

Chcieć (some Poles use Accusative with this verb so you may hear here both)

Chcesz kawę? Do you want coffee?

Potrzebować

Potrzebuję spokoju. *I need calmness.*

Słuchać (*notice we don't put any preposition after this verb*)

Czego słuchacie? *What are you listening to?*

Unikać

Unikamy mięsa. *We avoid meat.*

Bać się

Moja córka boi się ciemności. *My daughter is afraid of darkness.*

4. After certain prepositions:

do – to with closed spaces, cities and countries

Idziemy do domu? *Are we going home?*

z – from (places)

Wracam z pracy. *I'm coming back from work.*

od – from (people, time)

Jesteśmy nad morzem od czwartku. *We've been at the sea since Thursday.*

Mam ten sweter od kochanki. *I've got this sweater from my lover.*

dla – for (when giving something)

To wino nie jest dla dziadka. *This wine is not for the grandpa.*

bez – without

Piję gin bez toniku. *I drink gin without tonic.*

u – at (people's houses, workplaces)

Karol mieszka u mamy. *Karol lives at his mum's.*

obok – next to

Moje nowe mieszkanie jest obok cmentarza. *My new apartment is next to a cemetery.*

There are more prepositions which take Genitive case but these are the most common ones.

What are the endings?

	Masculine animate	Masculine inanimate	Neutral	Feminine
	Nie lubię	Nie jem	Nie mam	Nie kupuję
adjective	naszego	zimnego	nowego	gorzkiej**
noun	szefa	sera*, jogurtu	auta	czekolady

- *There is no clear rule when you should use **-a** or **-u** endings. Use **-u** by default but when you are talking about: small tools, fruits and vegetables, Polish cities, months, technologies, names of currencies, dances, cars, companies and some exceptions like chleba, sera, kościoła, szpitala – use **-a**.
- ** You may remember it from my previous lessons. After letters k- and g- we usually put extra -i- before adding the ending. This rule is valid for all genders and cases.

	Masculine personal	Masculine impersonal	Neutral	Feminine
	Nie lubię	Nie mam	Nie kupuję	Nie rozumiem
adjective	aroganckich	białych	zielonych	inteligentnych
nouns	szefów, lekarzy, nauczycieli*	butów, kaloszy*	jabłek**	kobiet

- Masculine impersonal and personal get the same endings.
- * The hard consonants get in Masculine ending **-ów**, functionally soft consonants (sz, rz, cz, dz, c) ending **-y**, and soft consonants (ć/ci, ś/si, ź/zi, dź/dzi) and L ending **-i**.
(kalosz – a rubber shoe)
- ** We normally drop the gender endings of neutral and feminine nouns, but when we are left with two consonants at the end we usually separate them with **-e-** (marchewka-marchewek).