

Accusative

The accusative case refers to the object of the verb.
For example:

Ich habe einen Bruder (I have a brother)

The brother is what is had, so is 'being accused' of being had by his sibling.

In the accusative, the definite article ('the') and indefinite article ('a/n') change respectively for each gender.

M	der -> den	einen kleinen Bruder
F	die = die	eine kleine Schwester
N	das = das	ein kleines Zimmer
P	die = die	- kleine Brüder

The accusative is used in conjunction with the following prepositions: bis (-up to/until), durch (-through), für (-for), ohne (-without), um (-by), gegen (-against).

The following prepositions can be used for both accusative and dative, they are used in accusative when they involve movement, and dative when they are static: an (-at/on/to), auf (-at/on/to/upon), neben (-beside/near/next to), vor (-in front of/befor/ago), unter (-under/among), zwischen (-between), über (-about/above/across/over), in (-in/into), hinter (-behind).

Genitive

The genitive case is used when expressing possession. For example:

Das Auto meines Vaters (The car of my father/ my father's car)

In the genitive, the definite article ('the') and indefinite article ('a/n') change respectively for each gender.

M	der -> des	der Hund <u>meines</u> Bruders
F	die -> der	der Besitzer <u>einer</u> Katze
N	das -> des	das Buch <u>eines</u> Lehrers
P	die -> der	Bücher von <u>meiner</u> Mutter

The genative is used in conjunction with the following prepositions: an/statt (-instead of), ausserhalb (-outside of), innerhalb (-inside of), trotz (-despite/in spite of), während (-during), wegen (-because of).

Dative

The dative case refers to the indirect object. For example:

Ich fahre mit dem Bus (I travel by (the) bus)

The bus is not being *travelled*, rather *travelled on*.

In the dative, the definite article ('the') and indefinite article ('a/n') change respectively for each gender.

M	der -> dem	einem roten Bus
F	die -> der	einer roten Strassbahn
N	das -> dem	einem roten Auto
P	die -> den	- roten Autos

The dative is used in conjunction with the following prepositions: mit (-with), nach (-to/after), seit (-since), von (-from/of), zu (-to), aus (-from/out of), bei (-at), gegenüber (-opposite).

Nominative

The nominative case is used regarding the subject of the verb. For example:

Der Hund beißt der Mann (The dog bites the man)

The nominative is used regarding who is doing the main action: the dog is biting the man.

In the nominative is the simple case. It is thus the default one found when you look something up in the dictionary. Therefore both the definite article ('the') and the indefinite article ('a/n') stay the same.

M	der = der	der Fisch schwimmt
F	die = die	die Tante isst den Kuche
N	das = das	das Gras wächst
P	die = die	die Schüler lernen