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PREPOSITION + ARTICLE CONTRACTIONS

Some prepositions combine with definite articles (der, die, das,...) to make a contraction.

THESE PREPOSITION-ARTICLE COMBINATIONS MUST BE CONTRACTED

Preposition + Article	Example
an + dem = am	„Ich bin am Geldautomaten.“
an + das = ans	„Ich gehe ans Fenster.“
bei + dem = beim	„Ich bin beim Schlittschuhlaufen gestürzt.“
in + dem = im	„Ich bin im Supermarkt.“
in + das = ins	„Ich gehe ins Schwimmbad.“
von + dem = vom	„Ich komme gerade vom Einkaufen zurück.“
zu + dem = zum	„Ich gehe gerade zum Bahnhof.“
zu + der = zur	„Ich gehe zur Eröffnung des neuen Theaters.“

When these preposition-article pairs are separated, it's not an article anymore; it's a demonstrative pronoun!

Example:

- „Ich gehe **an das** Fenster.“ = „Ich gehe **an dieses** Fenster“
The emphasis is on this particular window. You are probably pointing your finger (or at least in your head!).
- „Ich gehe **in das** Schwimmbad.“ = „Ich gehe **in dieses** Schwimmbad.“
You're focused on this specific swimming pool! It's more precise than if you used the contracted version.

PREPOSITION-ARTICLE PAIRS THAT ARE OFTEN CONTRACTED

In informal language, the following preposition-article pairs are often combined to form a contraction. Officially, however, to be grammatically correct they should be separated.

Preposition + Article	Example
auf + das = <u>aufs</u>	„Ich bin auf das / aufs Dach geklettert.“
auf + dem = <u>aufm</u>	„Ich bin auf dem / aufm Dach.“
für + das = <u>fürs</u>	„Ich interessiere mich für das / fürs neue Ebook.“
durch + das = <u>durchs</u>	„Die Straße führt durch das / durchs Naturschutzgebiet.“
um + das = <u>ums</u>	„Der Weg führt um das / ums Haus.“
hinter + dem = <u>hinterm</u>	„Er ist hinter dem / hinterm Haus, im Garten.“
hinter + das = <u>hinters</u>	„Sie ist hinter das / hinters Haus gerannt.“
über + dem = <u>überm</u>	„Die Drohne schwebt über dem / überm Baum.“
über + das = <u>übers</u>	„Opa ärgert sich über das / übers verlorene Spiel.“
unter + dem = <u>unterm</u>	„Luisa versteckt sich unter dem / unterm Tisch.“
unter + das = <u>unters</u>	„Ich stelle das Fahrrad unter das / unters Vordach.“
vor + dem = <u>vorm</u>	„Anna wartet vor dem / vorm Bahnhof.“
vor + das = <u>vors</u>	„Ich stelle das Fahrrad vor das / vors Haus.“

It's definitely possible that you will hear other versions as well. In some dialects different words are combined in different ways.

The ones listed here are the most common and used throughout Germany.

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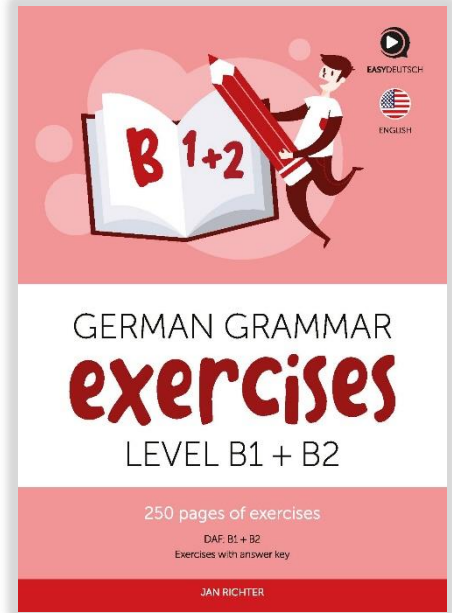
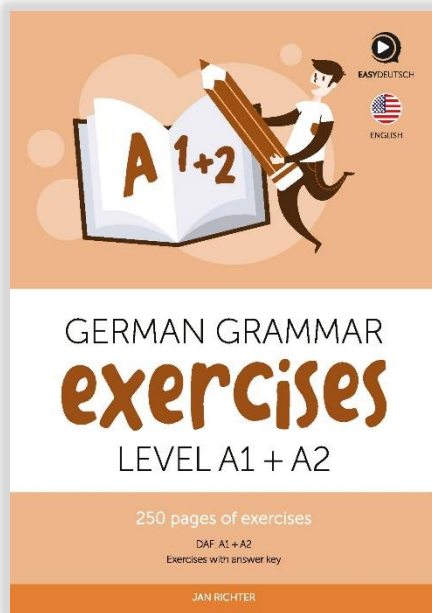
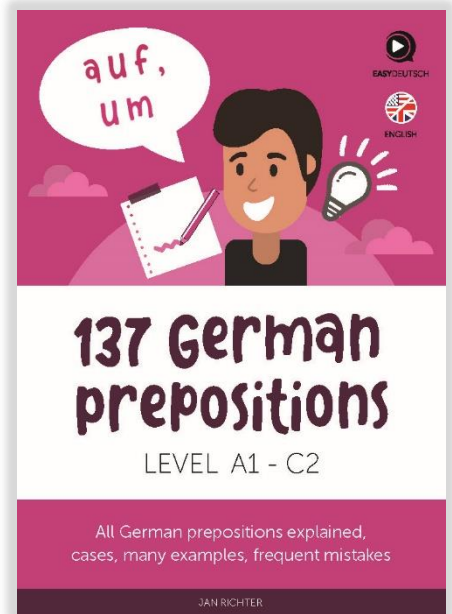
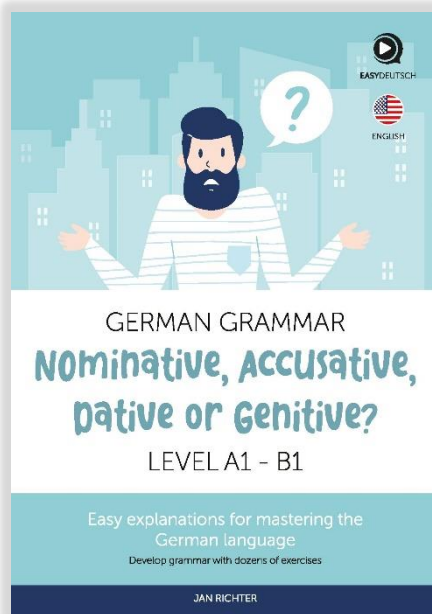
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