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EASYDEUTSCH



ENGLISH

auf,
um



137 German prepositions

LEVEL A1 - C2

All German prepositions explained,
cases, many examples, frequent mistakes

JAN RICHTER

137 German Prepositions



EASYDEUTSCH

Prepositions are one of the biggest obstacles for all learners in any language.

With this book, I give you all the information you need to understand German prepositions. Some things you have to know - that means, memorize. That's precisely why you can find the general explanations and also all the necessary lists to understand German prepositions.

Authors: Jan Richter / Karina Indytska

German Grammar

137 German Prepositions

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Authors: Jan Richter, Karina Indytska

Cover Design: Alejandra Chavarria

Illustrations: depositphotos.com

Editing, Proofreading: Karina Indytska

Publisher: EasyDeutsch LLC

2880W Oakland Park Blvd

Suite 225C

Oakland Park, FL. US FL 33311

Printing: WIRmachenDRUCK GmbH

ISBN Buch: 978-3-948331-04-7

ISBN Ebook: 978-3-948331-05-4

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The Authors

Jan Richter

Jan is a self-employed German teacher and author. With his website EasyDeutsch and his eBooks, he wants to prove to you that German grammar is much easier than its reputation. His new book: "137 German Prepositions" explains the prepositions in a simple and easy-to-understand way. He is responsible for all explanations in the book.



Karina Indytska

Karina is the author of the exercises for this preposition book, the intensive trainer on German prepositions, and the [YouTube-Videos](#) and the new [EasyDeutsch Grammatik](#) exercises/workbook.

She loves learning foreign languages. Karina speaks a total of six languages and studied philology. She has been tutoring and teaching foreign languages since 2013 and has since taught online and offline in Germany, Spain, Italy, Mexico, and Colombia.

She now shares her passion for languages with you as an author at EasyDeutsch and supports you with entertaining, varied, and practical exercises for learning German.

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Preface:

Prepositions are a big challenge for all language learners since your native language often doesn't help you here but rather gets in the way. Therefore, I recommend that you completely ignore your native language when learning prepositions.

"Auf", for example, means "on" in English. Nevertheless, you often have to use a different preposition in German, even if you use "on" in English.

Many verbs use certain prepositions in certain situations, and even some adjectives require a specific preposition.

In the first part of this eBook, you will get an overview of the most important 20 prepositions you use in almost every sentence: the local and the temporal prepositions. I'll explain what they mean when you need to use them and which case the prepositions forces upon the noun.

In the 2nd part of the eBook, you will find a list of 137 German Prepositions sorted by the language level A1-C2. So you know whether this preposition is already relevant for your level. There, you will also find at least two examples of each preposition and the different meanings, synonyms, common mistakes, as well as special notes on grammar and usage.

In the 3rd part of the eBook, you will find two lists that you can use to directly learn all prepositions at your level: verbs & adjectives with specific prepositions sorted by level.

In the 4th part, you will find all verbs & adjectives with certain prepositions sorted from A-Z, regardless of the level. This section is mainly intended for quick reference. On the next page, you will also find the legend to all abbreviations and designations.

Legend

Language Use:

Official German / Official Language	Language you'll find in forms but never hear in everyday life.
Upscale	Only used when you want to sound particularly educated. Not everyday German.
Commercial	Prepositions used mainly in commercial activities such as accounting but very rare in everyday life.
Literature	Expressions found exclusively in (very) ancient texts and literary works.
Standard Language	All phrases typically used in everyday life that are also recognized as correct by the Duden dictionary.
Outdated	These prepositions are no longer used in the spoken language. However, you can still find them in older books and texts.

Meaning of Designations:

Prefixed	Preposition comes before the noun (and anything else that may belong to the noun - article + adjective)
Postfixed	Preposition comes after the noun

Colors:

Nominative, **Accusative**, **Dative**, **Genitive**, **Emphasis**

Abbreviations:

(s.) sich – reflexive verb

(es) – verb + preposition exists only in combination with "es" (third-person: singular)

No. – noun

N – nominative, **A** – accusative, **D** – dative, **G** – genitive

an | kommen – separable verb

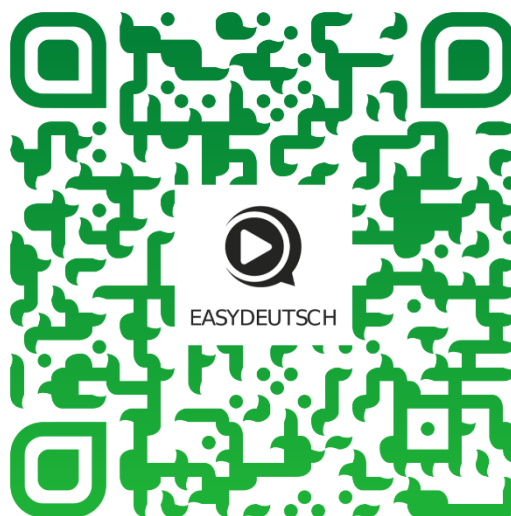


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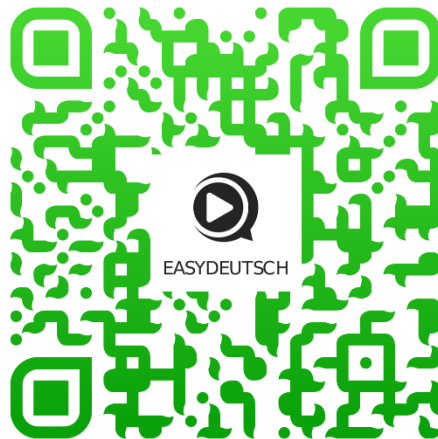
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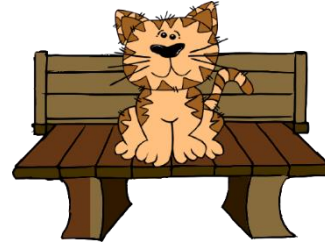
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DEFINITION AND USAGE

Prepositions are also called "Verhältniswörter". Prepositions are invariant and are thus never declined. They are usually placed before the noun or pronoun to which they refer.

- „Die Katze sitzt **auf** der Bank.“



The usage of prepositions is sometimes not very easy. The translation helps only partially because they are probably used differently than in your native language.

You should learn in which situation to use which preposition.

Prepositions are divided into local, modal, temporal, and causal prepositions.

A preposition always determines the case.

THE DIFFERENT PREPOSITIONS

Local Prepositions: related to a location/position

- „Ich komme **aus** Deutschland.“

Temporal Prepositions: related to the time or a time point

- "Ich komme **um** 5 Uhr. "

Modal Präpositions: related to „Wie“(how) and the way

- „Ich komme **mit** dem Auto.“

Causal Prepositions: related to the reason/goal of an action

- "Ich komme **wegen** dir. "



EXERCISE

Max and Nina have met for a Language-Tandem. Mark the prepositions in the dialogue and match them to the categories.

Alex: Hallo Nina, freut mich, dich kennenzulernen.

Nina: Hi Alex, mich auch! Hast du gut hergefunden?

Alex: Ja, danke. Ich wohne hier ganz in der Nähe.

Nina: Du kommst aus Kanada, richtig?

Alex: Genau, aus Toronto.

Nina: Und aus welchem Grund lernst du Deutsch?

Alex: Ich bin wegen meiner Freundin nach Deutschland gezogen. Das Problem ist, dass wir zuhause und auch auf der Arbeit nur Englisch sprechen. Wenn man sich einmal daran gewöhnt hat, mit einer Person eine Sprache zu sprechen, ist es schwer, das zu ändern. Deswegen möchte ich ein Tandem machen. So kann ich außerdem neue Freundschaften schließen.

Nina: Du sprichst aber sehr gut! Seit wann lernst du Deutsch?

Alex: Ich habe vor drei Jahren mit einem Kurs angefangen...seit 2017 also. Wie sieht es bei dir aus? Warum möchtest du ein Englisch-Tandem machen?

Nina: In Deutschland lernen wir Englisch in der Schule, aber leider habe ich mich damals nicht für Sprachen interessiert. Im Sommer habe ich eine Reise durch Europa gemacht, und gemerkt, dass man mit Sprachen viele coole Leute kennenlernen kann. Ich will keine Sprachbarriere haben, die mir dabei im Weg steht.

Alex: Das stimmt! Das ist das erste Mal, dass ich mich mit einem Tandem-Partner treffe. Hast du eine Vorstellung, wie wir das am besten machen?

Nina: Wir können zum Beispiel die erste halbe Stunde Deutsch und die nächste halbe Stunde Englisch sprechen.

Alex: Das klingt super.

Local Prepositions: Wo? Woher? Wohin?

- _____

Temporal Prepositions: Wann?

- _____

Modal Prepositions: Wie?

- _____

Causal Prepositions: Warum?

- _____

Other:

- _____

PREPOSITIONS AND THE CASES

Prepositions not only put the different parts of the sentence in relation to each other but also have a 2nd important task;

Prepositions determine the case of the noun to which they refer. ALWAYS!

- „Ich komme **aus dem Haus**.“ (Dativ because of „aus“)
- „Ich fahre **durch den Tunnel**.“ (Akkusativ because of „durch“)

If you want to know which prepositions use which case, please work your way through the following chapters, lists, and overviews.

PREPOSITIONS AND ARTICLE

Some prepositions are connected with the definite article (der, die, das, ...).

These prepositions should always merge with the article:

- an + dem = **am**
- an + das = **ans**
- bei + dem = **beim**
- in + dem = **im**
- in + das = **ins**
- von + dem = **vom**
- zu + dem = **zum**
- zu + der = **zur**

The following prepositions are also often combined in colloquial language. Officially, however, they are grammatically correct only separately.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • auf + das = aufs | • hinter + das = hinters |
| • auf + dem = aufm | • über + dem = überm |
| • für + das = fürs | • über + das = übers |
| • durch + das = durchs | • vor + dem = vorm |
| • um + das = ums | • vor + das = vors |
| • hinter + dem = hinterm | |

Examples:

- „Ich gehe **zum** Bahnhof.“ → grammatically correct
„Ich gehe **zu dem** Bahnhof.“ = „Ich gehe **zu diesem** Bahnhof.“
- „Ich bin **im** Bahnhof.“ → grammatically correct
„Ich bin **in dem** Bahnhof.“ = „Ich bin **in diesem** Bahnhof.“

If the preposition is written separately from the article, it is not an article but a demonstrative pronoun.



EXERCISE

Connect the prepositions. Mark the prepositions that are not only used colloquially but are also grammatically correct.

Attention! In a sentence, the preposition cannot merge with the article.

1) **Alex:** Sollen wir uns _____ (*an + dem*) Bahnhof treffen?

Nina: Ok, ich warte _____ (*vor + dem*) Bahnhof auf dich.

2) **Alex:** Hast du Lust nach dem Shoppen _____ (*in + das*) Kino zu gehen?

Nina: Gerne, _____ (*auf + dem*) Weg können wir noch ein paar Snacks kaufen.

3) **Alex:** Oh nein, schon so spät! Wie schaffen wir es noch rechtzeitig _____ (*zu + dem*) Bahnhof?

Nina: Lass uns _____ (*durch + das*) Einkaufszentrum gehen. Das ist eine Abkürzung.

4) **Alex:** Verreist du _____ (*über + das*) lange Wochenende?

Nina: Dieses Wochenende nicht, aber _____ (*in + dem*) Oktober gibt es noch eins.
Da fliege ich nach Schweden.

5) **Alex:** _____ (*Bei + dem*) Kochen höre ich immer Schlager.

Nina: Oh Gott..., wenn ich Schlager höre, möchte ich am liebsten (*aus + dem*)
Fenster springen.

6) **Alex:** Wohin kann ich _____ (*zu + dem*) Wandern fahren?

Nina: Du könntest _____ (*in + die*) Schweiz fahren. Dort gibt es wunderschöne
Landschaften.

7) **Alex:** Hast du Fotos von deinen Hunden _____ (*auf + dem*) Handy?

Nina: Leider nein, ich muss sie dir _____ (*an + dem*) Computer zeigen.

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PREPOSITIONS – IN GENERAL

EXERCISE



Max und Nina have met for a Language-Tandem. Mark the prepositions in the dialogue and match them to the categories.

Alex: Hallo Nina, freut mich, dich kennenzulernen.

Nina: Hi Alex, mich auch! Hast du gut hergefunden?

Alex: Ja, danke. Ich wohne hier ganz **in** der Nähe.

Nina: Du kommst **aus** Kanada, richtig?

Alex: Genau, **aus** Toronto.

Nina: Und **aus** welchem Grund lernst du Deutsch?

Alex: Ich bin **wegen** meiner Freundin nach Deutschland gezogen. Das Problem ist, dass wir **zu**hause und auch **auf** der Arbeit nur Englisch sprechen. Wenn man sich einmal **daran** gewöhnt hat, mit einer Person eine Sprache zu sprechen, ist es schwer, das zu ändern. Deswegen möchte ich ein Tandem machen. So kann ich außerdem neue Freundschaften schließen.

Nina: Du sprichst aber sehr gut! **Seit** wann lernst du Deutsch?

Alex: Ich habe **vor** drei Jahren mit einem Kurs angefangen...**seit** 2017 also. Wie sieht es **bei** dir aus? Warum möchtest du ein Englisch-Tandem machen?

Nina: **In** Deutschland lernen wir Englisch in der Schule, aber leider habe ich mich damals nicht **für** Sprachen interessiert. Im Sommer habe ich eine Reise **durch** Europa gemacht, und gemerkt, dass man **mit** Sprachen viele coole Leute kennenlernen kann. Ich will keine Sprachbarriere haben, die mir dabei **im** Weg steht.

Alex: Das stimmt! Das ist das erste Mal, dass ich mich **mit** einem Tandem-Partner treffe. Hast du eine Vorstellung, wie wir das **am** besten machen?

Nina: Wir können **zum** Beispiel die erste halbe Stunde Deutsch, und die nächste halbe Stunde Englisch sprechen.

Alex: Das klingt super.

Local Prepositions: Wo? Woher? Wohin?

- in, aus, zu, auf, bei, durch, im (in + dem)

Temporal Prepositions: Wann?

- in, aus, seit, vor

Modal Prepositiones: Wie?

- mit, am

Causal Prepositions: Warum?

- wegen

Other:

- an, für, zum (zu + dem)

Attention: Different prepositions can belong to different categories. You can find more about this in the prepositions from A - Z.

Tip:

Why don't you find a tandem partner to learn German with? There are often groups on Facebook and Couchsurfing where you can organize a language tandem. You can also see if the university or a language center in your city offers such a service. Learning with a native speaker over a coffee is much more fun.

EXERCISE



Connect the prepositions. Mark the prepositions that are not only used colloquially but are also grammatically correct.

Attention! In a sentence, the preposition cannot merge with the article.

1) **Alex:** Sollen wir uns am Bahnhof treffen?

Nina: Ok, ich warte **vorm** Bahnhof auf dich.

2) **Alex:** Hast du Lust nach dem Shoppen ins Kino zu gehen?

Nina: Gerne, **aufm** Weg können wir noch ein paar Snacks kaufen.

3) **Alex:** Oh nein, schon so spät! Wie schaffen wir es noch rechtzeitig zum Bahnhof?

Nina: Lass uns **durchs** Einkaufszentrum gehen. Das ist eine Abkürzung.

4) **Alex:** Verreist du **übers** lange Wochenende?

Nina: Dieses Wochenende nicht, aber im Oktober gibt es noch eins. Da fliege ich nach Schweden.

5) **Alex:** **Beim** Kochen höre ich immer Schlager.

Nina: Oh Gott..., wenn ich Schlager höre, möchte ich am liebsten **ausm** Fenster springen.

6) **Alex:** Wohin kann ich zum Wandern fahren?

Nina: Du könntest in die ⁻¹ Schweiz fahren. Dort gibt es wunderschöne Landschaften.

7) **Alex:** Hast du Fotos von deinen Hunden **aufm** Handy?

Nina: Leider nein, ich muss sie dir am Computer zeigen.

1: „in“ + „die“ cannot merge.

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DEFINITION AND USAGE

- „Die Katze sitzt **auf** der Bank.“
- “The cat is sitting **on** the bench.”

THE DIFFERENT PREPOSITIONS

Local prepositions:

- „Ich komme **aus** Deutschland.“
- “I am **from** Germany.”

Temporal prepositions:

- „Ich komme **um** 5 Uhr.“
- “I’ll be there **at** 5:00.”

Modal prepositions:

- „Ich komme **mit** dem Auto.“
- “I’ll come **by** car.”

Causal prepositions:

- „Ich komme **wegen** dir.“
- “I’m coming **for** you.”

PREPOSITIONS AND THE CASES

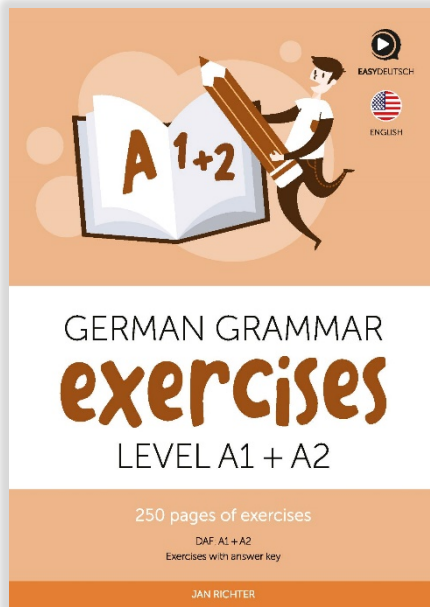
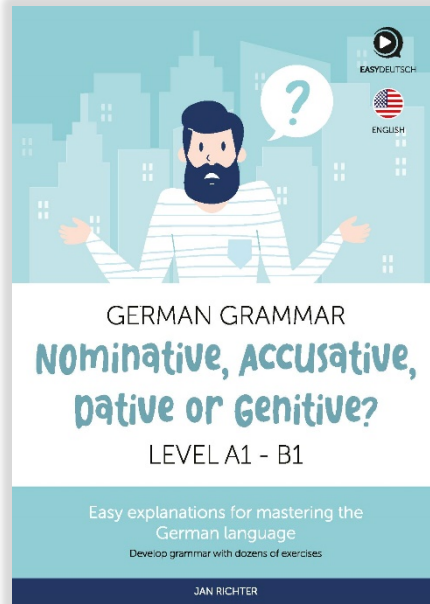
Prepositions determine the case of the noun to which they refer. Always!

- „Ich komme **aus** dem Haus.“
(Dativ wegen „aus“)
- “I’m coming out **of** the house.”
(Dative case because of “out”)
- „Ich fahre **durch** den Tunnel.“
(Akkusativ wegen „durch“)
- “I’m going **through** the tunnel.”
(Accusative because of “through”)

PREPOSITIONS AND ARTICLE

- „Ich gehe **zum** Bahnhof.“
(grammatically correct)
- “I’m going **to** the train station.”
(grammatically correct)
- „Ich gehe **zu dem** Bahnhof.“
- “I’m going **to the** train station.”
- = „Ich gehe **zu diesem** Bahnhof.“
- = “I am going **to that** station.”
- „Ich bin **im** Bahnhof.“
(grammatically correct)
- “I am **at** the station.”
(grammatically correct)
- “Ich bin **in dem** Bahnhof.“
- “I am **in the** station.”
- = „Ich bin **in diesem** Bahnhof.“
- = “I am **in that** station.”

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