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## VERBS L16.6 – VERBS WITH PREPOSITIONAL COMPLEMENTS

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## PREPOSITIONAL COMPLEMENTS

**Some verbs require complements with prepositions.** The verbs only have a specific meaning in combination with this preposition.

Without the preposition, the verb doesn't work or has a different meaning.

The preposition determines the case (dat./acc./gen.).

## EXAMPLES

- „Ich *interessiere* mich *für* das neue iPhone.“  
(The verb "sich interessieren" always uses the preposition "für". Without "für", the sentence is not correct.)
- „Ich *lasse* *auf* den Verkehr *auf*.“  
(The verb "aufpassen" always uses the preposition "auf". Without "auf", the sentence is not correct.)

## EXAMPLES: TWO COMPLEMENTS

Some verbs even require two complements with two different prepositions:

- „Ich *spreche* *mit* meiner Mutter *über* meinen Bruder.“
- „Er *bedankt* sich *bei* ihr *für* das Geburtstagsgeschenk.“

"Sprechen" and "bedanken" have two complements. However, if one of the two pieces of information is obvious or unknown, it can also be omitted. The prepositions determine the case.

## QUESTIONS WITH PREPOSITIONS

When formulating questions with verbs that use a prepositional complement, keep a few things in mind. First, when asking for the complement with the preposition, we must also include the preposition in the question.

### Accusative Preposition + "wen"

|     |     |             |
|-----|-----|-------------|
| Auf | wen | warten wir? |
| Auf | wen | denkst du?  |

### Dative Preposition + "wem"

|     |     |            |
|-----|-----|------------|
| Mit | wem | tanzst du? |
| Mit | wem | redet er?  |

## Questions About People

We have to ask with the preposition in front of the question word. This is similar to the formal, old-fashioned version of English.

### Wo (r) + Preposition

|       |                            |
|-------|----------------------------|
| Wovon | träumst du?                |
| Womit | machst du die Flasche auf? |
| Woran | denkst du?                 |

**Translation for direct comparison:** For whom do we wait? Who are we waiting for? / About whom are you thinking? / With whom do you dance? / With whom is he you talking? // About what are you dreaming? With what do you open the bottle? / About what are you thinking?

## QUESTION ABOUT THINGS

The question word is formed by "wo" + preposition.

For prepositions that start with a vowel (a, e, i, o, u), we must include an "r".

These questions do not have anything to do with the single question "wo?" (Where?).

**This variation is possible, even though it is very informal:**

**Preposition + "was"**

|            |            |                            |
|------------|------------|----------------------------|
| <b>An</b>  | <b>was</b> | denkst du?                 |
| <b>Mit</b> | <b>was</b> | machst du die Flasche auf? |
| <b>Von</b> | <b>was</b> | träumst du?                |

This variation is possible, even though it is very informal.

It is not so popular because it sounds a bit "dumb" or "uneducated".

**SUMMARY**

- Some verbs use complements with prepositions.
- That doesn't mean that the verb doesn't work without the preposition.
- Without the preposition or with another preposition, the verb has a different meaning.
- The preposition is obligatory for a certain meaning.
- The preposition determines the case, and for questions, the preposition must also be integrated into the question word (Like in the formal, old-fashioned English).

**TASK**

- **Use my Vocabulary List Sample for verbs.**
- Write down the meaning with and without prepositions while learning a new verb.

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