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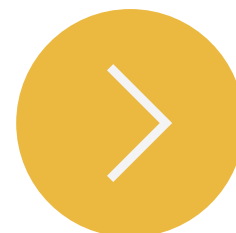
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Prepositions

PREPOSITIONS L1 – PREPOSITIONS IN GENERAL

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Video Lesson:

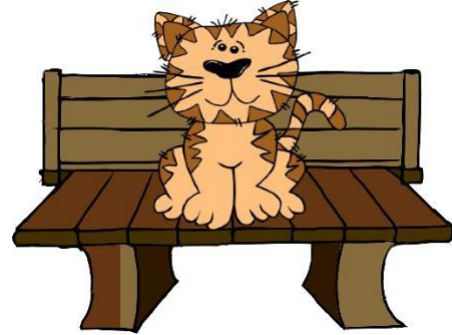
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DEFINITION AND USE

Prepositions are also called ratio words. They are invariant and thus never declined. They usually come before the noun or pronoun to which they refer.

That means they cannot stand alone!

- „Die Katze sitzt **auf** der Bank.“



In some cases, their use is not quite simple.

If German is not your native language, the translation will only help you partially because they are probably used differently than in your native language. You should learn which prepositions you have to use in which situation.

There are different types of prepositions: local, modal, temporal, and causal.

The preposition always determines the case of the noun.

TYPES OF PREPOSITIONS

Local Prepositions: related to a location or position

- „Ich komme **aus** Deutschland.“

Temporal Prepositions: related to time or a point in time

- „Ich komme **um** 5 Uhr.“

Modal prepositions: related to the manner

- „Ich komme **mit** dem Auto.“

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

- „Ich komme **wegen** dir.“

PREPOSITIONS AND CASES

Besides describing the relationship between the different parts of the sentence, prepositions have a second important task:

Prepositions determine the case of the noun they are related to:

- „Ich komme **aus** dem Haus.“ (Dative because of "aus")
- „Ich fahre **durch** den Tunnel.“ (Accusative because of "durch")

PREPOSITIONS WITH ARTICLES

Sometimes prepositions are combined with a definite article (der, die, das ...).

For these preposition + article combinations, you should always form a contraction:

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

EXAMPLES

- „Ich gehe **zum** Bahnhof.“
- „Ich gehe **zu dem** Bahnhof.“
- „Ich bin **im** Bahnhof.“
- „Ich bin **in dem** Bahnhof.“

If the preposition is separated from the article, it is not an article anymore but a demonstrative pronoun. (More in the chapter pronouns)

TASK



- Check your own language! Which prepositions exist in your native language?
- How do you use them?

Even though there are probably only limited similarities here, it will help you enormously in learning German if you understand the grammar of your native language.

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