

Prepositions in German- Workbook

Prepositions in German can be a little tricky because they require us to use different cases. Some always take the accusative, some others always take the dative, and some others again can either take the dative or the accusative case depending on the meaning we are trying to give across.

As you can imagine, this requires a little bit of practice until you can feel completely confident using prepositions alongside the correct cases, but at some point you will be able to use them pretty much without thinking.



Dative prepositions



The following prepositions always require the dative case, no matter what follows in the rest of the sentence:

- Von
- Auf
- Nach
- Mit
- Zu
- Bei
- Seit
- ab



You might find it easier to remember them if you listen to this [song](#) a couple of times. It is pretty catchy and even includes the definitive articles

Accusative prepositions



The following prepositions always require the accusative case, no matter what follows in the rest of the sentence:

- Entlang
- Durch
- Um
- Gegen
- Für
- Bis
- Ohne
- um



[Song](#) – Smarter German

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The trickiest category of prepositions are the so-called “two case prepositions”. As mentioned earlier, these prepositions can take either the accusative or the dative, depending on the meaning of the sentence.

If you are using the prepositions to show a movement in a certain direction (and there is a change of location), then you will have to use the accusative case.

However, if you are using the prepositions to describe a fixed location and there is no movement involved, this requires us to use the dative.



Two – case prepositions💡

The following prepositions can either go with the accusative (movement) or with the dative case (fixed location)

- Vor
- Hinter
- Über
- Unter
- Neben
- An
- Zwischen
- Auf
- In



Again, you might find it easier to remember them if you listen to this [song](#) a couple of times. This one even contains the grammar rules, so this might help you remember when to use which case.

Categories

Now, try sorting the following prepositions into the three different categories:

aus um für in mit bei an neben zwischen gegen auf nach zu durch von vor



Dative prepositions	Accusative prepositions	Two-case prepositions

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Accusative vs dative

Remember, when deciding whether to use the accusative or dative case for a 2-case preposition, we need to have a look at the meaning of the sentence and decide whether it describes a movement or a fixed location.

	<u>Dative</u>	<u>Accusative</u>
1. Ich gehe in ??? Stadt	☐	☐
2. Das Buch liegt auf ??? Tisch	☐	☐
3. Meine Schwester ist bei ??? Arzt	☐	☐
4. Wir wohnen vor ???? Kirche	☐	☐
5. Wir klettern auf ??? Berg	☐	☐

Definite articles

Now we'll go one step further and add the correct definite articles. That means we will have to check which case to use first, and then choose a suitable article based on the gender and number of the word we are talking about.

Here are the different options we have:

	<u>Accusative</u>	<u>Dative</u>
Feminine	die	der
Masculine	den	dem
Neuter	das	dem
Plural	die	den



1. Er ist an _____ Bahnhof (m)
2. Sie wirft den Ball gegen _____ Mauer (f)
3. Ich gehe zu _____ Bushaltestelle (f)
4. Es gibt viel Getreide auf _____ Feldern (pl)
5. Wir gehen in _____ Geschäft (n)

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Indefinite articles



And let's do the same for indefinite articles.

	Accusative	Dative
Feminine	Eine	Einer
Masculine	Einen	Einem
Neuter	Ein	Einem
Plural	-	-

1. Er ist an _____ Bahnhof (m)
2. Sie wirft den Ball gegen _____ Mauer (f)
3. Ich gehe zu _____ Bushaltestelle (f)
4. Es gibt viel Getreide auf _____ Feldern (pl)
5. Wir gehen in _____ Geschäft (n)