

1.5 Separable-prefix verbs

Many German verbs have prefixes that change the verb's meaning. They combine with the infinitive to form a single word.

stehen	<i>to stand</i>
gehen	<i>to go</i>
kommen	<i>to come</i>
aufstehen	<i>to stand up</i>
ausgehen	<i>to go out</i>
ankommen	<i>to arrive</i>

In statements, verb second, prefix last.

When you use a present-tense form of these verbs, put the conjugated form in second position and put the prefix at the end of the sentence. The two parts of the verb form a frame or bracket, called a **Satzklammer**, that encloses the rest of the sentence.

Claire kommt an.



Claire kommt am Donnerstag an.



Claire kommt am Donnerstag in Frankfurt an.



Here are some common verbs with separable prefixes.

abholen	<i>to pick up, fetch</i>
ankommen	<i>to arrive</i>
anrufen	<i>to call up</i>
aufhören	<i>to stop, be over</i>
aufräumen	<i>to clean up, tidy up</i>
aufstehen	<i>to get up</i>
ausfüllen	<i>to fill out</i>
ausgehen	<i>to go out</i>
einkaufen	<i>to shop, shop for</i>
einpacken	<i>to pack up</i>
kennenlernen	<i>to get acquainted with</i>