Page 161-162: Prepositions with the Dative Case

These prepositions will always use the dative case. Once you know what they mean, using them is straightforward: simply put the noun after them into the dative case in German. The slightly harder part is learning what each preposition means, because there is not always a one-to-one literal translation for each of these words. Please read carefully and make sure you understand not only the grammar, but also the meanings of the dative prepositions.

Things to notice:

- There are eight dative prepositions in German, although your book only lists seven. I would prefer that you learn all eight, but you will only be tested directly on the ones your book lists on page 161.
- The only preposition your book leaves out is “außer” which means “besides, except for”. There are no others waiting for you to learn, just these! Therefore the complete list of all dative prepositions in German is:

  aus = from a physical location, out of a place  
  außer = besides, except for (e.g. “außer meinem Vater” = except for my father)  
  bei = at, near, beside, alongside  
  mit = with  
  nach = to (place), after (time/event)  
  seit = since (time), for (time)  
  von = from, by means of, created by  
  zu = to (small place), at (home), for (event/meal)

- You will need to learn that list: you will thank yourself later if you simply memorize the prepositions in a row. You can hum it to the tune of the Blue Danube Waltz if you wish: see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bw1O_Z9Wo-8 for an example of the tune and prepositions.
- Most prepositions are fairly straightforward, but please read the example sentences so you see how they are used in German for the different meanings.
  - Please see the note about the contractions zum, zur, von, and beim on page 162. These are very common forms in German, and it’s perfectly fine to use either the contracted form (zum) or the full form (zu dem).
  - “Seit” is only for time meanings of since/for: “seit einem Jahr”, “seit 2010”, “seit dieser Woche”, “seit wann”. If you want to say “since” meaning ‘because’, you’ll want a completely different structure using the conjunction ‘weil’, not the preposition ‘seit’.
  - “Nach” and “zu” can both mean ‘to a place’, depending on the size of the place. “Nach” is used to indicate going to cities, countries, regions, and continents. “Zu” is used to indicate going to buildings, offices, schools, and people’s houses. If it helps, remember that “nach” is a larger word, used for larger places; “zu” is a smaller word used for small places like buildings.

| Ich gehe | nach Los Angeles | to a city |
| Ich gehe | nach Arizona | to a state |
| Ich gehe | nach Deutschland | to a country |
| Ich gehe | nach Europa | to a continent |
| Ich gehe | zu der Schule | to a school or university |
| Ich gehe | zu dem Arzt | to an office like doctor, dentist |
| Ich gehe | zu der Bank | to a bank, post office, market |
| Ich gehe | zu einem Freund | to a friend’s house |

- “Nach Hause” and “zu Hause” are simply phrases that don’t make logical sense. They don’t correspond to the normal meanings of ‘nach’ and ‘zu’ at all! You need to memorize them: “Nach Hause” will always mean “to my house, homewards” and “zu Hause” will always mean “at home”. When you use a motion verb (going, coming) you MUST use “nach Hause”. When you want to say something happens in your house or located at your house, then use “zu Hause”.


If you did not already, as part of Reading Guide 1, then I do suggest that you look at the following links. One is my explanation and practice with the dative case, and the other is a detailed chart for the dative case articles and pronouns — both include substantial information about the dative prepositions as well.

Handout: Dative Case Explanation (http://www.nthuleen.com/saddleback/handouts/Dative-Dative_Case_Explanation.pdf)
Handout: Chart of Dative Articles (http://www.nthuleen.com/saddleback/handouts/Dative-Dative_Chart.pdf)

Page 162-163: Übung 11, 12, and 13

You will complete exercises 11 through 13 as part of your Connect Aufgabe, so once you have understood the meanings and grammar of the dative prepositions, please complete those exercises online. Exercise 14 is not assigned.

Now that you have learned the important information about the dative case in all its forms, you should complete the Aufgabe on the Connect website. After you have completed those exercises, you should finish the remaining work on the weekly checklist. Also, remember to keep practicing, memorizing and learning both the vocabulary and grammar topics using the web links and videos at the bottom of the Week 12 page on Blackboard.