

*durch den Tunnel**für ihren Bruder**gegen die Wand**ohne meinen Mann*

Akkusativpräpositionen

Accusative Prepositions

*bis nächsten Samstag**pro Stunde**um den Tisch**den Fluss entlang*

Review: Accusative Case Forms

You have already learned the accusative case. Remember that only the masculine articles show any change in the accusative case; the neuter, feminine and plural articles look the same as their original nominative forms.

<u>MASC NOM</u>	<u>MASC ACC</u>	<u>FEM</u>	<u>NEUT</u>	<u>PLUR</u>	
der	den	die	das	die	'the'
dieser	diesen	diese	dieses	die	'this'
ein	einen	eine	ein	(-)	'a'
mein	meinen	meine	mein	meine	'my'
dein	deinen	deine	dein	deine	'your'
sein	seinen	seine	sein	seine	'his/its'
ihr	ihren	ihre	ihr	ihre	'her/their/Your'
unser	unseren	unsere	unser	unsere	'our'
euer	euren	eure	euer	eure	'you all's'

Review: Accusative for Direct Objects

You already know that the accusative case is used for the direct objects in a sentence. A hint to remembering what a direct object is: look for two different things, X and Y, in the sentence. A direct object sentence will usually have the form $X \rightarrow Y$, and Y will be the direct object. If it is a masculine noun, you'll need to use the 'den' or 'einen' accusative articles.

Ich sehe den Mann.

I see the man.

Hast du einen Computer?

Do you have a computer?

Die Frau liebt ihren Sohn.

The woman loves her son.

Der Sohn liebt seine Mutter.

The son loves his mother.

Review: Accusative for Direct Objects

The direct objects of a sentence are always accusative. But do remember that with linking verbs (mostly the verb 'sein'), the sentence will look like $X = X$ and remain nominative. Both sides of the verb are the same thing and there is no direct object.

Der Mann ist ein guter Professor.

The man is a good professor.

Ist das dein Computer?

Is that your new computer?

Ist dein Laptop ein neuer Computer?

Is your laptop a new computer?

Mein Bruder ist ein starker Athlet.

My brother is a strong athlete.

New: Accusative with Certain Prepositions

There is another time when you'll need to use the accusative case in German, and that is after the eight accusative prepositions: durch, für, gegen, ohne, um, bis, entlang, pro. In German, any noun placed right after those eight prepositions must be in the accusative case. Remember that only the masculine nouns will change their article!

Das ist ein Geschenk für meinen Vater.

This is a present for my father.

Wir laufen durch den Park.

We're walking through the park.

Sie gehen ohne ihre Freunde.

They're going without their friends.

Ich arbeite acht Stunden pro Tag.

I work eight hours per day.

Deutschland spielt gegen Frankreich.

Germany is playing against France.

Let's examine the meanings and usage of each of the eight accusative prepositions.

für = *for*

Für is almost exactly like English "for" and is probably the easiest of the prepositions to remember and use correctly. Nearly every time you want to say "for" in German, you should use "für" and put the following noun in the accusative case.

Er bezahlt €10 für das Buch.

He's paying €10 for the book.

Sie kauft es für ihre Mutter.

She's buying it for her mother.

Er arbeitet für einen netten Chef.

He works for a nice boss.

ohne = without

Ohne is simply the “without” meaning. Depending on the sentence and meaning, you may see “ohne” used without an article (“ohne Milch”) but if an article is present, it must be in the accusative case (“ohne den Mann”).

Wir lernen ohne den Computer nicht. *We don't learn without the computer.*

Ohne Geld ist das Leben schwierig. *Life is difficult without money.*

Ich trinke Kaffee ohne Milch. *I drink coffee without milk.*

durch = through

Durch is more or less equivalent to the English “through” meaning. There are some advanced-level metaphorical meanings where “durch” might mean “by” (in the passive voice) but we won't see those meanings this semester. For our purposes, focus on learning that “durch” means “through”.

Wir fahren durch die Stadt. *We're driving through the city.*

Das Kind läuft durch den Wald. *The child is running through the forest.*

Der Zug fährt durch den großen Tunnel. *The train drives through the big tunnel.*

gegen = *against*

Gegen has two meanings when translated into English. In most cases, "gegen" means "against" in the sense of opposition, physical placement, or unfavorable opinions.

Köln spielt gegen Augsburg. *Köln is playing against Augsburg.*

Hast du etwas gegen meinen Freund? *Do you have something against my friend?*

Er lehnt sich gegen die Wand. *He's leaning against the wall.*

gegen = *around (time only)*

In phrases with a specific time of day, "gegen" will translate to "around" or "approximately" that time. The "around" meaning only happens when a TIME element is stated directly. Usually, "gegen" will continue to mean the more physical sense of "against" or in opposition to.

Er sagt, er kommt gegen 9 Uhr. *He says he's coming around 9.*

Die Sonne geht gegen 19 Uhr unter. *The sun sets around 7 pm.*

Gegen Mittag macht sie eine Pause. *Around noon she takes a break.*

um = around (place)

Um has two meanings when translated into English. The first meaning is a physical “around” or “in a circle around” some object or place.

Wir laufen um die Stadt. *We're walking around the town.*

Der Ball rollt um das Zimmer. *The ball rolls around the room.*

Die Kinder spazieren um den See. *The kids stroll around the lake.*

um = at (time only)

You already know that when giving the time of day, the word “um” is used to mean “at” that time. The meaning “at” only works when stating a time directly.

Ich komme um zehn Uhr zur Uni. *I come to campus at 10.*

Der Film beginnt um 18.40 Uhr. *The movie starts at 6:40 pm.*

Um acht Uhr fährt der Zug ab. *At 8:00 the train departs.*

bis = until

You probably already know that "bis" means "until," because we've learned phrases like "*bis morgen*" or "*bis später*".

In most uses, "bis" will be followed by a noun with no article – no den/die/das or any other word, just a noun directly. When an adjective precedes the noun, make sure to add the proper accusative case endings to the adjective!

Wir warten bis nächste Woche. *We'll wait until next week.*

Ich bleibe bis nächsten Freitag hier. *I'm staying here until next Friday.*

Sie arbeitet bis 21.00 Uhr. *She's working until 9 pm.*

pro = per

Pro is equivalent to the English "per". The noun that comes after "pro" almost never has any article – no den/die/das or any other word, just a noun directly. It is most commonly used with word like "*pro Jahr*" or "*pro Monat*" or "*pro Person*".

Die Karten kosten €9 pro Person. *The tickets costs €9 per person.*

Er arbeitet 40 Stunden pro Woche. *He works 40 hours a week.*

Das Auto fährt 200 Kilometer pro Stunde. *The car drives 200 kilometers per hour.*

entlang = *along*

Entlang is the least common of the accusative prepositions, and you won't see it very often. It means "along" as in along the side of a straight object.

Entlang is one of the rare words that is a postposition, rather than a preposition: that means it usually is placed after the noun, not before it! The noun it belongs with is still in the accusative case.

Gehen Sie diese Straße entlang. Go along this street.

Das Boot segelt den Fluss entlang. The boat is sailing along the river.

Soll ich diesen Weg entlang laufen? Should I walk along this way?

Accusative Preposition Meanings

through	=	<u>durch</u>
for	=	<u>für</u>
without	=	<u>ohne</u>
until	=	<u>bis</u>
against	=	<u>gegen</u>
per	=	<u>pro</u>
along	=	<u>entlang</u>
around (<i>place</i>)	=	<u>um</u>
around (<i>time</i>)	=	<u>gegen</u>
at (<i>time</i>)	=	<u>um</u>

Prüfen Sie sich mit Präpositionen!

Test Yourself with Prepositions!

Er kauft ein Geschenk für seinen Vater.

He's buying a present for his father.

Die Kinder laufen gern durch den Park.

The children like to run through the park.

Wir kommen gegen acht Uhr zur Party.

We'll come to the party around eight.

Ich gehe heute um die Stadt spazieren.

I'm going for a walk around the city today.

Wir müssen bis nächsten Sommer warten.

We'll have to wait until next summer.

Ich arbeite acht Stunden pro Tag.

I work eight hours per day.

Sie geht ohne ihre Freunde an den Strand.

She's going to the beach without her friends.

Das Seminar beginnt um zehn Uhr.

The seminar starts at ten o'clock.

Wann spielen die Patriots gegen die Chargers?

When are the Patriots playing against the Chargers?

Abends laufen wir den Fluss entlang.

In the evenings we walk along the river.

Hast du schon Karten für das Konzert?

Do you already have tickets for the concert?

Die Blumen sind für meine Mutter.

The flowers are for my mother.

Wir können ohne den Professor beginnen.

We can start without the professor.

Meine Eltern bleiben bis nächsten Montag hier.

My parents are staying here until next Monday.

Wir spazieren durch das Museum.

We're strolling through the museum.

Er reist zweimal pro Jahr nach Europa.

He travels to Europe twice per year.

Was hast du gegen Andreas?

What do you have against Andreas?

Sie sollen hier diese Straße entlang gehen.

You (formal) should go along this street here.

Das Ende!