

Adjective + preposition

— ADJEKTIVE MIT PRÄPOSITIONEN

Some German adjectives are fixed to one particular preposition (auf, mit, an and so on) and always appear with it, such as stolz auf or zufrieden mit.

Just like verbs, some German adjectives are glued to a particular preposition (for example, “to be proud of something” -> stolz auf). You have to memorise which case (Akkusativ/Dativ) that preposition then takes on the noun.

CONTENTS

- 01 Right now: the adjective's glued-on preposition
- 02 You already do this in English (with fixed prepositions)
- 03 Table: the five most common adjectives and their cases 04 Trap: translating word for word
- 05 The part nobody tells you: asking questions 06 Test yourself

01 00:15

Right now: the adjective's glued-on preposition

SHORTCUT ⚡ Just like verbs that take a preposition, adjectives take one too. English has these pairs as well (“proud *of* you”, “interested *in*”), but the German preposition often differs from the English one: **stolz** always goes with **auf** (literally “on”), not with “von” (of).

✓ Ich bin stolz **auf** dich.

I'm proud of you. (auf literally means “on”, but you don't translate it word for word)

✓ Bist du zufrieden **mit** dem Ergebnis?

Are you satisfied with the result? (mit = with)

02 01:30

You already do this in English (with fixed prepositions)

In English you say “satisfied *with*”, “interested *in*”, “dependent *on*”: the adjective and its preposition come as a pair. German works the same way, but the prepositions do not always match the English ones.

ENGLISH	GERMAN (WITH PREPOSITION)	TRAP
satisfied with the result	zufrieden mit dem Ergebnis	same as English: mit
proud of the children	stolz auf die Kinder	not von (of): auf
interested in this topic	interessiert an diesem Thema	not in: an
dependent on money	abhängig vom Geld	not auf (on): von

Don't translate these patterns word for word; learn them as blocks: "stolz auf, zufrieden mit".

03 02:45

Table: the five most common adjectives and their cases

The case of the noun after the preposition (Akkusativ or Dativ) depends directly on the adjective itself (Rektion). With two-way prepositions (an, auf), the adjective sets the rule: **interessiert an** always takes the Dativ, while **stolz auf** always takes the Akkusativ.

ADJECTIVE + PREPOSITION	CASE REQUIRED	EXAMPLE
zufrieden mit	Dativ	mit dem Job
abhängig von	Dativ	von der Technik
interessiert an	Dativ	an der Kunst
stolz auf	Akkusativ	auf den Sohn
verantwortlich für	Akkusativ	für das Projekt

mit and von always take the Dativ, für always takes the Akkusativ. With the two-way prepositions an and auf, however, the adjective itself decides the case.

ADVERTISEMENT



04 03:45

Trap: translating word for word



TRAP

Choosing the preposition by translating

If you translate word for word, the wrong preposition slips in (with, of, in...), and you end up saying **mit dir** or **von dir**. But **stolz** always takes **auf** (Akkusativ), so you have to say **auf dich**.

✗ Ich bin stolz ~~mit dir~~.

A big mistake, caused by translating word for word.

✓ Ich bin stolz **auf dich**.

Correct.

05 05:00

The part nobody tells you: asking questions

When you want to ask a question with these adjectives and you are talking about people, you put the preposition first: **Auf wen bist du stolz?** (“Who are you proud of?”). But if you are talking about a thing, you use the “wo-” words: **Worauf bist du stolz?** (“What are you proud of?”).

06 BUILD

Build the sentence yourself

Tap the words and put them in order. This is the hardest part of German — and there are no options to pick from, **you** build it.

TAP THE WORDS

TAP THE WORDS

06 05:00

Test yourself

Tap an answer — we will look at why together.

Take the full test



+4

10 questions · timed · rule breakdown at the end

ADVERTISEMENT

728 × 250

GENAU — NOT RULES, THE MOMENT IT CLICKS.
GENAU · FREE GERMAN LIBRARY