

Formal genitive prepositions

— DIE PRÄPOSITIONEN MIT GENITIV

Formal genitive prepositions such as *aufgrund*, *infolge*, *anhand* and *mittels* are advanced prepositions used in writing and official contexts; they always take the genitive.

When you move into B2 writing, basic prepositions like *wegen* and *trotz* give way to more formal genitive prepositions such as *aufgrund* and *ungeachtet*.

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01 00:15

Right now: the step up to B2 writing

⚡ SHORTCUT The *wegen*, *trotz*, *während* you met while learning the genitive are for everyday language. At B2, especially in the **Schreiben** section and in formal correspondence, you use more “polished” prepositions that carry the same meanings.

✓ **Wegen des Regens bleiben wir hier.**

We’re staying here because of the rain. (everyday / standard)

✓ **Aufgrund des Regens bleiben wir hier.**

We’re staying here owing to the rain. (formal / written)

These prepositions are **always** used with the **genitive** (the “of” case). The articles of the nouns change like this: *der/das* → *des*, *die/die* (plural) → *der*.

02 01:30

You already do this in English

To a friend you say “I couldn’t come **because of** the bad weather”. But when you write to your boss or to an official body, it becomes “**owing to** / **due to** adverse weather conditions”. The meaning is the same, but the register is different.

EVERYDAY PHRASE	FORMAL PHRASE	GERMAN EQUIVALENT (WITH GENITIVE)
... because of	... owing to / due to	aufgrund des Wetters
... with the help of	... by means of	mittels eines Formulars
... despite	... notwithstanding	ungeachtet der Probleme

In a formal exam or a business email, using the right-hand column always earns extra points.

✓ **Mangels Beweisen wurde er freigesprochen.**
 He was acquitted for lack of evidence.

03 02:45

Table: the staple prepositions of B2

You should pin this table above your desk. All of them take the genitive:

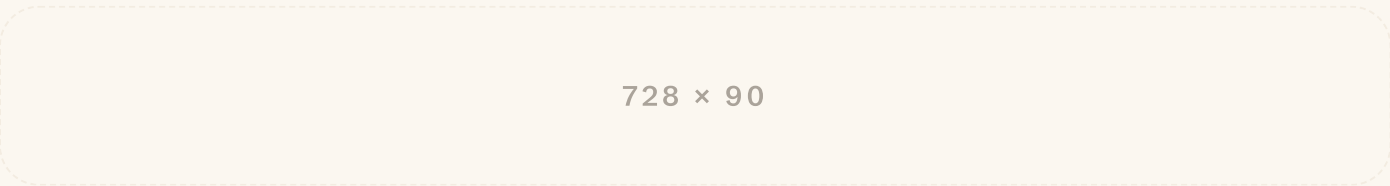
PREPOSITION	MEANING	EXAMPLE
aufgrund	due to / owing to	aufgrund des Unfalls
infolge	as a result of	infolge der Krise
anhand	on the basis of / using	anhand der Daten
mittels	by means of	mittels eines Passworts
bezüglich / hinsichtlich	regarding / with regard to	bezüglich Ihrer Anfrage

PREPOSITION	MEANING	EXAMPLE
zugunsten	In favour of / for the benefit of	zugunsten der Kinder
ungeachtet	despite / regardless of	ungeachtet des Risikos
mangels	for lack of / In the absence of	mangels einer Alternative
zwecks	for the purpose of (usually without an article)	zwecks Klärung

Don't forget to add **-s** or **-es** to the end of masculine (der) and neuter (das) nouns (des Unfalls).

✓ **Bezüglich Ihres Schreibens vom 3. Mai...**
 With reference to your letter of 3 May...

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04 03:45

Spelling trap: aufgrund von

- ✓ Wir bleiben **aufgrund des schlechten Wetters** zu Hause.

We're staying at home because of the bad weather.



TRAP

Failing to form the genitive and using the dative

If the noun has no article and the genitive can't be shown (for example, a bare plural or a proper name), then **von + Dativ** is used. But if there is an article, you **must** use the genitive.

- ✗ **Aufgrund ~~von dem schlechten Wetter~~**

Wrong. There is an article, so von can't be used.

- ✓ **Aufgrund des schlechten Wetters**

The correct form is the genitive.

- ✓ **Aufgrund von technischen Problemen**

Correct. No article (plural), so von + Dativ comes to the rescue.

This rule also applies to **infolge** and **anhand**.

05 04:30

The part nobody tells you: "zwecks" doesn't like articles

Although **zwecks** (for the purpose of) in theory takes the genitive, Germans use it **without an article** almost every time.

- ✗ Wir treffen uns zwecks ~~der~~ Besprechung.

Sounds very clumsy.

- ✓ Wir treffen uns zwecks **Besprechung**.

Short and pure office German (Bürodeutsch).

If you are handing in a document you can say "zwecks Kontrolle" (for checking), and if you are asking a question you can say "zwecks Klärung" (for clarification).

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

TAP THE WORDS

06 05:00

Test yourself

Tap an answer — we will look at why together.

+4

Take the full test

10 questions · timed · rule breakdown at the end



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