

The preposition aus

— DIE PRÄPOSITION AUS

aus is a preposition that always takes the Dativ: aus der Türkei, aus dem Haus, aus Holz.

One of the first sentences you meet in German is **Ich komme aus der Türkei**. The catch: almost everyone says **aus Türkei**. aus has four jobs, and in all four it is followed by the Dativ.

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01 00:10

One rule: aus always takes the Dativ

⚡ **SHORTCUT** aus means **from the inside to the outside**. You were inside an enclosed place and you came out: **aus dem Haus**.

It is English “**out of**” — and also, in many cases, “from” (*I’m from Ankara*). But it is not the only German word for “from”: **von** also means “from”, and that is where the real mix-up happens. First let’s pin down aus’s own jobs.

- ① aus **does not merge** with the article: **aus dem** is always two words. In speech you may hear “ausm”, but it has no place in writing.

02 01:00

The four jobs of aus

JOB	IN ENGLISH	EXAMPLE
1 - Coming out of something	out of	Er kommt aus dem Zimmer . HE'S COMING OUT OF THE ROOM .
2 - Origin	from	Ich komme aus Ankara . I'M FROM ANKARA .
3 - Material	made of	Der Tisch ist aus Holz . THE TABLE IS MADE OF WOOD .
4 - Reason	out of - from	Er schwieg aus Angst . HE KEPT QUIET OUT OF FEAR .

In 3 and 4 the article **drops: aus Holz · aus Gold · aus Angst · aus Liebe**. You are not talking about one particular piece of wood, you mean “wood” in general.

03 02:40

Naming countries: the ones with an article

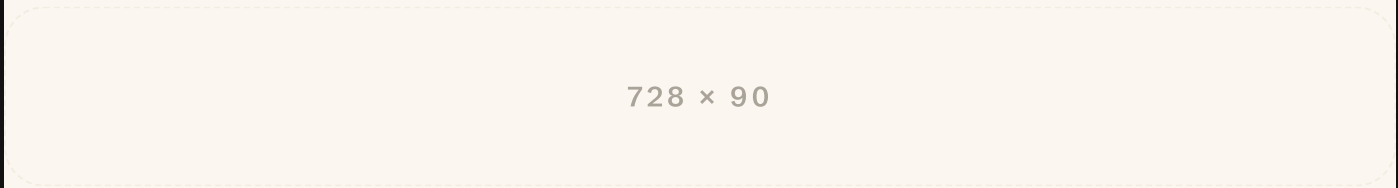
Most countries are **article-less** in German: **Deutschland, Frankreich, Italien, Spanien**. With them **aus** attaches straight to the name. But a small group of countries carries an article — and **Turkey is in that group**. English does something similar with “the Netherlands” or “the USA”, but the German list is different, so learn it.

COUNTRY	ARTICLE	"I'M FROM ..."
Turkey	die Türkei	aus der Türkei
Switzerland	die Schweiz	aus der Schweiz
Iran	der Iran	aus dem Iran
Iraq	der Irak	aus dem Irak
USA	die USA (plural)	aus den USA
Germany	— none —	aus Deutschland

Countries with an article also behave differently when you talk about **direction**: nach Deutschland but in die Türkei. The whole distinction is on the [preposition nach](#) page.

- ✗ Ich komme aus Türkei.
die Türkei has an article
- ✓ Ich komme aus der Türkei.
I'm from Turkey.

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04 04:00

aus or von — the whole system

SHORTCUT
 If you were inside, it's aus; if you were beside, it's von. Coming out of an enclosed space: aus; coming from a person, an institution or a point: von.

English says “from” for both — “I’m coming from the cinema”, “I’m coming from the doctor” — so the difference becomes invisible. But in German this is not a pair, it is **a system of three**: going · being · coming. The table below is one of the most useful tables in German — memorise three rows and you solve six prepositions at once.

WITH WHAT	GOING →	BEING ·	COMING ←
Person / institution DOCTOR, MOTHER, BARBER	zum Arzt	beim Arzt	vom Arzt
Enclosed place CINEMA, KITCHEN, SCHOOL	ins Kino	im Kino	aus dem Kino
City / country BERLIN, GERMANY	nach Berlin	in Berlin	aus Berlin

Pick the row, pick the column, and the preposition falls out. Most of the moments when students get stuck on “which preposition?” are inside these three rows.

✓ **Ich komme aus dem Büro.**

I’m coming out of the office (the room).

✓ **Ich komme vom Arzt.**

I’m coming from the doctor’s.

05 05:40

Traps



TRAP 01

aus Türkei

This is the mistake heard most often in class. Because English says “from Turkey” without any article, people assume German does not need one either — but **die Türkei** is one of the countries with an article.

✗ **Ich bin aus Türkei.**

the article dropped

✓ **Ich bin aus der Türkei.**

I’m from Turkey.



TRAP 02

von Holz

Material is **always** expressed with aus. von is never used here, even though English “made of” may tempt you to look for another word.

✗ **Die Tür ist von Holz.**

material → aus

✓ **Die Tür ist aus Holz.**

The door is made of wood.



TRAP 03

aus die Schweiz

Remembering the article is not enough — because *aus* takes the Dativ, the article must also turn into the Dativ: *die* → *der*.

✗ Er kommt **aus die Schweiz**.

aus → Dativ → *der*

✓ Er kommt **aus der Schweiz**.

He's from Switzerland.

06 06:30

The other Dativ prepositions

07 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

07 06:50

Test yourself

Tap an answer — we will look at why together.

+7

Take the full test

13 questions · timed · rule breakdown at the end



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