

the preposition mit

— DIE PRÄPOSITION MIT

mit (“with”) is a preposition that always takes the Dativ: mit mir, mit dem Bus, mit Milch.

German **mit** covers what English “**with**” does: with him, by bus, with milk. One preposition does all three jobs, and all three take the Dativ.

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One rule: mit always takes the Dativ

⚡ **SHORTCUT** **mit mir** — there is no **mit mich**. mit has no Akkusativ form at all.

mit is one of the most common German prepositions and one of the easiest to learn: **it has no exceptions**. Whatever it means in a sentence, the Dativ follows.

- **mit mir · mit dir · mit ihm · mit ihr**
- **mit uns · mit euch · mit ihnen · mit Ihnen**
- English is plain here: with **me** · with **you** · with **him** · with **us**. In German the pronoun changes form after mit.

- ① mit does **not merge** with any article. **beim, zum, vom** exist, but “mitm” does not — you may hear it in speech, but in writing it is always **mit dem**.

The three jobs of mit

JOB	IN ENGLISH	EXAMPLE
1 - Company	with whom	Ich gehe mit meinem Bruder . I'M GOING WITH MY BROTHER .
2 - Means	by / with what	Ich fahre mit dem Bus . I'M GOING BY BUS .
3 - Contents / accompaniment	with (added)	Ein Kaffee mit Milch , bitte . A COFFEE WITH MILK , PLEASE .

English needs “with” for two of these and “by” for the means of transport. German uses **one word for all three**: with him, by bus, with milk. Once you know that, mit is one of the friendliest prepositions — few mistakes to make.

- ① When you describe food and drink, the article **drops: mit Milch • mit Zucker • mit Käse**. You aren't talking about one particular milk, you're saying “with milk”.

Transport: mit dem — and its one exception

The German pattern for “travelling by ...” is fixed: **mit** + vehicle + **fahren/fliegen**. What you have to memorise is not the preposition but the vehicle's article.

VEHICLE	PATTERN	ENGLISH
der Bus	mit dem Bus	by bus
das Auto	mit dem Auto	by car
die Bahn	mit der Bahn	by train
das Fahrrad	mit dem Fahrrad	by bike
das Flugzeug	mit dem Flugzeug	by plane
— on foot —	zu Fuß	on foot

The last row is the rule’s **only exception**: for walking you don’t use mit. If you say **mit dem Fuß**, you mean “using my foot as a tool” — for example when kicking a ball.

- ✗

Ich gehe **mit dem Fuß** zur Arbeit.

wrong pattern
- ✓

Ich gehe **zu Fuß** zur Arbeit.

I walk to work.

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04 04:10

When mit sticks to a verb: mitkommen · mitbringen

mit is not only a preposition: at the front of a verb it becomes a **separable prefix** meaning “along, together”. In the sentence it breaks away from the verb and goes to the end — so most learners see a lone **mit** at the end and look for a noun to go with it.

VERB	MEANING	IN A SENTENCE
mitkommen	to come along	Kommst du mit? — Are you coming?
mitbringen	to bring along	Ich bringe Kuchen mit. — I’m bringing cake .
mitmachen	to join in	Machst du mit? — Are you joining in?
mitnehmen	to take along	Nimm den Schirm mit. — Take the umbrella with you .

All the separable verbs are on the [separable verbs page](#). The one trick here: a lone **mit** at the end of a sentence is not a preposition, it is the broken-off part of the verb.

Traps



TRAP 01

mit mich

In English, “with me” never shows what case it is in. German does show it, and mit only knows the Dativ.

✗ **Kommst du mit mich?**

mit → must be Dativ

✓ **Kommst du mit mir?**

Are you coming with me?



TRAP 02

Forgetting the -n in the plural

In the Dativ plural the noun **itself** also takes -n. English has nothing like this, so the ending keeps getting dropped.

✗ **Ich spiele mit meinen Freunde.**

plural Dativ → Freunden

✓ **Ich spiele mit meinen Freunden.**

I'm playing with my friends.

✓ **Ich fahre mit den Kindern.**

I'm going with the children.



TRAP 03

mit dem Auto / in dem Auto

Both are correct, but they say different things: **mit** tells you **how you travel**, **in** tells you **where you are**.

- ✓ Ich fahre **mit dem Auto** nach Köln.

I'm driving to Cologne.

- ✓ Die Kinder schlafen **im Auto**.

The children are sleeping in the car.

06 06:00

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 06:20

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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