

Cheat Sheet: Two-Way Prepositions with Dative

The **Dative** is the case we use for indirect objects, like for example “the House belongs **to the woman**.” This **to the woman** is like an indirect object because it's **to the**. In English we use prepositions for that, in German we just use the correspondent dative article.

Das Haus gehört **der** Frau. (*The house belongs to the woman.*)

The dative has some strange articles.

masc → Das Auto gehört **dem** Mann. (*The car belongs to the man.*)

fem → Das Auto gehört **der** Frau. (*The car belongs to the woman.*)

neut → Das Auto gehört **dem** Kind. (*The car belongs to the kid.*)

pl → Das Auto gehört **den** Kindern. (*The car belongs to the kids.*)

Keep in mind: we add an additional **-n** to the nouns in the **Dative plural**.

Das Auto gehört **den** Kindern. (*The car belongs to the kids.*)

Das Auto gehört **den** Männern. (*The car belongs to the men.*)

Das Auto gehört **den** Freunden. (*The car belongs to the friends.*)

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There are prepositions that require always the **Dative** and others that require always the Accusative. But there are also some prepositions that can take the Dative or the Accusative. We call them **two-way prepositions**.

Here are the most common ones: **vor** (*before*), **hinter** (*behind*), **über** (*over*), **unter** (*under*), **neben** (*next to*), **an** (*at*), **zwischen** (*between*), **auf** (*on*), **in** (*in*)

You will use the Dative articles and endings if it's about a **position** and you are asking **where (Wo)**?

Wo ist der Park? Der Park ist **neben der** Schule. (*The park is next to the school.*)

Wo ist die Bäckerei? Die Bäckerei ist **hinter dem** Bahnhof. (*The bakery is*

behind the station.)

We combine in + dem = **im** and an + dem = **am**.

Er ist **im** Park. (*He is in the park.*)

Er wartet **am** Bahnhof. (*He is waiting at the station.*)

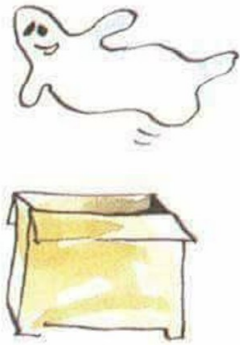
Remember again: we add an **n** to the nouns in the **Dative plural**.

In den Bäckereien gibt es leckeres Brot. (*In the bakeries they have tasty bread.*)

Just for the plural forms where we add an **s** we won't add the **-n**

die Autos → Das Haus ist vor **den** Autos

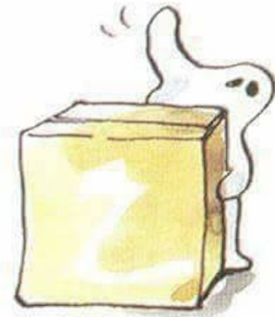
die Kinos → Das Haus ist vor **den** Kinos.



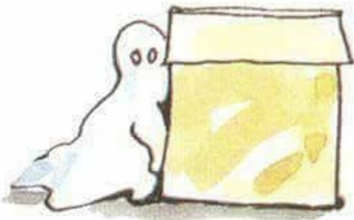
ÜBER



VOR



HINTER



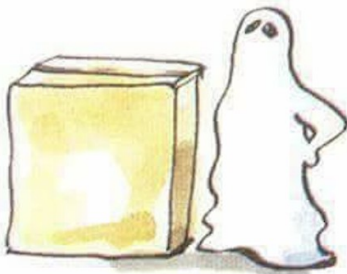
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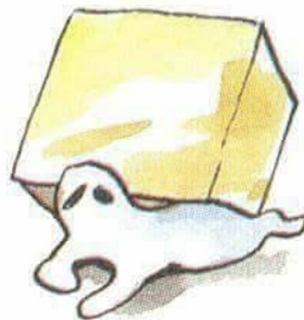
ZWISCHEN



IN



NEBEN



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