

Two-Way Prepositions (accusative-dative prepositions)

(This sheet is under construction, please check back later for updates.)

Spatial meanings of the nine prepositions

	<i>destination, target, "to" (used with accusative case)</i>	<i>location, confinement, "at" (used with dative case)</i>
vor	<i>to the front of, up before, to a point in front of</i>	<i>in the front of, before</i>
hinter	<i>to the point behind, to a place behind</i>	<i>at the place behind</i>
über	<i>across, out over and beyond, to a point across from</i>	<i>above, over</i>
unter	<i>to a point under, to a place underneath</i>	<i>below, at a place under</i>
neben	<i>up near, to a point next to</i>	<i>at a point next to, at a place near</i>
in	<i>to the inside of, into, to a place within</i>	<i>in, at a point within, in the space of</i>
zwischen	<i>to a point inbetween</i>	<i>at a place between</i>
auf	<i>onto, into (in relationship to a horizontal surface)</i>	<i>at a point on, on top of, in</i>
an	<i>toward, up against, at, onto (in relationship to a vertical surface)</i>	<i>on, at,</i>

Temporal (time) meanings

in	<i>in (future), during, within a span of (months, seasons, weeks, hours, minutes, seconds) (dative case)</i>
an	<i>on a specific date (days of the week, birthday, holiday) (dative case)</i>
vor	<i>ago (prepositional - NOT postpositional as in English ago) (dative case)</i>
über	<i>more than, longer than (accusative case)</i>
unter	<i>during</i>

Quantitative meanings (how much)

über	<i>more than, longer than (accusative case)</i>
unter	<i>less than, fewer than, shorter than (dative case)</i>
neben	<i>in addition to (dative case)</i>

Abstract & figurative meanings (a tiny sampling of examples)

an	<i>of, on (to die of, to work on, etc.)</i>
unter	<i>among, within, under (among ourselves, within the community, among the three of us, under pressure)</i>
zwischen	<i>between (compare with unter "among" - between the two of us)</i>
auf	<i>for, toward (to wait for, to hope for, to prepare for, to study toward)</i>
vor	<i>of, against (to be afraid of, to protect against)</i>
über	<i>about, with (to talk about, to entertain oneself with, to laugh about)</i>