

What are Two-Way Prepositions?

Worksheet

Two-way prepositions are in, on, under, above, next to, between, in front of, behind, and over in German. They take the dative case for location (where?) and the accusative case for movement (where to?).

Questions

1. Der Stuhl steht ____ (vor) dem Fenster. Which case?
A) accusative
B) dative
C) genitive
D) nominative
2. Accusative two-way prepositions answer which question?
A) Wer? (Who?)
B) Wo? (Where?)
C) Wohin? (Where to?)
D) Warum? (Why?)
3. Die Blume wächst ____ (zwischen) den Steinen. Which case?
A) accusative
B) dative
C) genitive
D) nominative
4. Ich stelle die Flasche ____ (unter) den Tisch. Which case?
A) dative
B) accusative
C) nominative
D) genitive
5. Das Kind sitzt ____ (on) dem Sofa. Choose dative or accusative.
6. Ich lege das Buch ____ (on) den Tisch. Choose dative or accusative.
7. Der Hund läuft ____ (under) den Tisch. Choose dative or accusative.
8. Define: Dative two-way preposition use?
9. Define: Accusative two-way preposition use?
10. Define: List the 9 two-way prepositions.

Answer Key

1. B) dative — No movement — static position. Use dative: der Fenster.
2. C) Wohin? (Where to?) — Accusative = movement/direction. Wo? is dative.
3. B) dative — The flower is between stones (static). Use dative: den Steinen → dative plural.
4. B) accusative — Placing (movement). Use accusative: den Tisch.
5. The child is sitting on the sofa — no movement, static location. Use dative: Das Kind sitzt auf dem Sofa.
6. The book is being placed on the table — movement happening. Use accusative: Ich lege das Buch auf den Tisch.
7. The dog is running under the table — movement occurring. Use accusative: Der Hund läuft unter den Tisch.
8. To describe static location: 'where?' (Wo?). Bild hängt an der Wand.
9. To describe movement: 'where to?' (Wohin?). Ich hänge Bild an die Wand.
10. an, auf, hinter, in, neben, über, unter, vor, zwischen.

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