DA & WO Compounds — An Introduction

DA as the Object of a Preposition *(da-compound)*

The particle *da* attaches to the front of a preposition.
Da takes the meanings: *it, this, that, these, those, there*

When the object of a preposition is a pronoun and that pronoun refers to something other than a person, then the pronoun object of the preposition is expressed as *da* in German. The *da* particle attaches to the FRONT of the preposition. If the preposition begins with a vowel, then *da* becomes *dar*.

Example da-compounds:

dafür = for that	darin = in there	daneben = next to it	etc.
darunter = under it	dagegen = against that	darauf = on top of this	

Example sentences with da-compounds:

Wir haben gestern einen guten Film gesehen.	We saw a good movie yesterday.
Wir sprechen gerade *darüber*.	We are talking *about it* at the moment.
Mein Onkel leidet an Krebs.	My uncle is suffering from cancer.
Das ist schade.	That's too bad.
Mein Vater leidet auch *daran*.	My father is also suffering *from this*.
Die vorgeschlagene Reglung finde ich schlecht.	I find the proposed ruling bad.
Ich werde ganz bestimmt *dagegen* wählen.	I will most certainly vote *agaisnt that*.

Personal Pronouns as the Object of a Preposition

Personal Pronouns follow thier prepositions.
Example prounouns: *ihn, ihm, ihr, sie, uns, euch meaning: him, her, us, you*, etc.

If the object of a preposition is a pronoun referring to a person, German pronouns such as sie, ihn, ihm, ihr etc. must be employed. The particle *da* is NEVER used in reference to people.

Example sentences with pronouns refering to people as objects of prepositions:

Wir haben gestern meinen Bruder gesehen.	We saw a good movie yesterday.
Wir sprechen gerade *über ihn*.	We are talking *about him* at the moment.
Meie Tante hat Krebs.	My aunt has cancer.
Ich denke oft *an sie*.	I often think *about her*.
Du bist ein guter Kandidat.	You are a good candidate.
Ich werde ganz bestimmt *für dich* wählen.	I will most certainly vote *for you*.

WO as an Interrogative Pronoun *(wo-compound)*

The particle *wo* attaches to the front of a preposition.
Wo takes the meaning: *what?*

When the object of a preposition asks what? and refers to somehthing other than a person, the word what? becomes *wo* in German and attaches to the FRONT of the preposition. If the preposition begins in a vowel, *wo* becomes *wor*.

wofür = what … for?   worüber = what … about?   etc.
womit = what … with?   woran = what … of?

Example sentences with wo-compounds:

Worüber sprecht ihr gerade?   *What* are you guys talking *about* right now?
Wir sprechen gerade üder den Film   We are talking about the movie.

Woran leidet dein Onkel?   *What* is your uncle suffering *from*?
Er leidet an Krebs.   He is suffering from cancer.

Wogegen wirst du wählen?   *What* are you going to vote *against*?
Ich werde wahrscheinlich gegen die neue Reglung wählen.   I'll probably vote against the new ruling.

WEN & WEM as the object of a preposition

The pronouns *wen* and *wem* follow their preposition.
Wen is accusative and *wem* is dative. Both words mean *who?* or *whom?*

If the object of a preposition is a pronoun referring to a person or persons, the pronouns *wen* (accusative) or *wer* (dative) must be employed. The particle *wo* is NEVER used in reference to people.

Example sentences with pronouns wen & wem referring to people:

Über wen sprecht ihr?   *Who* are you guys talking *about?*
                                                     formal: About whom *are you guys talking?*
Wir sprechen gerade über meinen Bruder.   We are talking about my brother at the moment.

Mit wem bist du verwandt?   *Who* are you related *to?*
                                                     formal: To whom *are you related?*
Ich bin mit Erik verwandt.   I'm related to Erik.

Für wen wirst du wahrscheinlich wählen?   *Who* are you probably going to vote *for*?
                                                     formal: For whom *are you probably going to vote?*
Ich werde sicher für den neuen Kandidaten wählen.   I'm surely going to vote for the new candidate.