

How to use prepositions to form questions and answers.

Questions asking *what?*

wo compounds

The particle *wo* attaches to the front of a preposition and forms a question meaning *what? + preposition*. If the preposition begins in a vowel, then an *r* is inserted between *wo* and the preposition. The *wo* compound acts as a question word expecting a response of a thing (as opposed to a person).

Wovor hast du Angst?
What are you afraid of?

Worauf wartet sie?
What is she waiting for?

Woran denkt ihr?
What are you guys thinking about?

Worüber hat er gesprochen?
What did he talk about?

Answers providing a response of *it*.

da compounds

The particle *da* attaches to the front of a preposition and forms an answer meaning *preposition + it*. If the preposition begins in a vowel, then an *r* is inserted between *da* and the preposition. The particle *da* can also mean *this, that, them, those*, etc.

Ich habe Angst davor.
I'm afraid of it.

Sie wartet darauf.
She's waiting for it.

Wir denken daran.
We're thinking about it.

Er hat darüber gesprochen.
He talked about it.

Questions asking *who?* or *whom?*

preposition + wen/wem

The preposition is brought to the front of the sentence and is followed by *wen* when governing accusative and *wem* when governing dative. Unlike English, when prepositions are used as questions words in German, they can NEVER fall to the end of the sentence.

Vor wem hast du Angst?
Who are you afraid of? (Of whom are you afraid?)

Auf wen wartet sie?
Who is she waiting for? (For whom is she waiting?)

An wen denkt ihr?
Who are you guys thinking about? (About whom...)

Über wen hat er gesprochen?
Who did he talk about? (About whom did he talk?)

Answers responding with a *personal pronoun*.

preposition + personal pronoun in acc. or dat.

The format is parallel to English. The personal pronoun must take the case (accusative or dative) governed by the preposition.

Ich habe Angst vor ihr.
I'm afraid of her.

Sie wartet auf mich.
She's waiting for me.

Wir denken an dich.
We're thinking about you.

Er hat über euch gesprochen.
He talked about you guys.