

WHAT IS AN OBJECT OF PREPOSITION PRONOUN?

An **OBJECT OF PREPOSITION PRONOUN** is a pronoun used an object of preposition. 1

They went out with *me*.
pronoun *me* object of preposition *with*

IN ENGLISH

Object of preposition pronouns are the same as the pronouns used as direct and indirect objects. They can replace any noun object, including persons, things, or ideas (see *What are Direct and Indirect Object Pronouns?*, p. 59).

The teacher saw *me*. 10
direct object

The teacher gave *me* the book.
indirect object

The teacher spoke with *me* after class.
object of preposition *with*

The teacher talked about *it* in class.
object of preposition *about*

IN GERMAN

The objects of prepositions can be in the accusative, dative, or genitive case. Normally we replace a noun object with a pronoun only if the noun replaced refers to a person. A different construction is used when the pronoun refers to a thing or idea. Let us look at the two types of constructions. 20

REFERRING TO A PERSON

When the pronoun object of a preposition refers to a person or an animal, follow the steps you have already learned in order to choose the appropriate personal pronoun (see p. 37).

1. ANTECEDENT — Find the noun replaced. 30
2. GENDER — Determine the gender of the antecedent.
3. CASE — Identify the case required by the preposition.
4. SELECTION — Select the appropriate pronoun form from the chart on p. 60.

Below are examples showing how to analyze sentences that have a pronoun referring to a person as the object of a preposition.

*Is Anja buying something for her brother?
Yes, she is buying something **for him**.*

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1. ANTECEDENT: brother
2. GENDER: **der Bruder** (*brother*) is masculine.
3. CASE: **für** takes an accusative object
4. SELECTION: masculine accusative → **ihn**

Kauft Anja etwas für ihren Bruder?
Ja, sie kauft etwas **für ihn**.

*Did Franz talk about his sister?
No, he did not talk **about her**.*

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1. ANTECEDENT: sister
2. GENDER: **die Schwester** (*sister*) is feminine.
3. CASE: **von** takes a dative object
4. SELECTION: feminine dative → **ihr**

Sprach Franz von seiner Schwester?
Nein, er sprach nicht **von ihr**.

REFERRING TO A THING

To replace a pronoun object of a preposition whose antecedent is a thing or idea, German uses a construction called the **DA-COMPOUND**. It is formed by adding the prefix **da-** to the preposition, or **dar-** if the preposition begins with a vowel.

Let us look at some examples.:

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*Does Beth talk **about her courses**? Yes, she does talk **about them**.*
Spricht Beth **von ihren Kursen**? Ja, sie spricht **davon**.

preposition	noun (a thing)	da-construction: da- + preposition von
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*Are you thinking **about the price**? Don't think **about it**.*
Denken Sie **an den Preis**? Denken Sie nicht **daran**!

preposition	noun (a thing)	da-construction: da- + -r- + preposition an
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These **da**-compounds are not formed with every preposition. Your German textbook will discuss this construction and its use in greater detail.

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CAREFUL — Be sure to look at an entire sentence, not just at the word itself, to establish its function. For example, **ihn** (*him*) could be the direct object form (accusative) of the masculine pronoun or the object of a preposition that takes the accusative case.

STUDY TIPS — OBJECT OF PREPOSITION PRONOUNS

Pattern

Let's compare **da-** to **wo-**compounds (see *What is an Interrogative Pronoun?*, p. 118) to find similarities in form and usage.

20. OBJECT OF PREPOSITION PRONOUNS

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Compare forms

wo-compound	da-compound
woran	daran
worin	darin
wofür	dafür
womit	damit

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Compare usage

Both used when anticipating or referring to a thing or an idea, not a person.

**wo-compound
in questions****da-compound
in statement**

Worauf wartest du?

Wartest du **auf den Bus**?

What are you waiting for?

Are you waiting for the bus?

Nein, **darauf** warte ich nicht.

No, I'm not waiting for it.