

2.5.2 German prepositions with the dative case

The common prepositions taking the dative are:
aus, außer, bei, gegenüber, mit, nach, seit, von, zu
Less widely used, but worth knowing, are:
ab, binnen, gemäss, laut, zufolge

US	(a)	aus expressing place = <i>out of, from</i>	
		Sie kommt <i>aus dem Haus</i>	She came <i>out of</i> the house
		Er kommt <i>aus Sachsen</i>	He comes <i>from</i> Saxony (i.e. + his native region)
		<i>aus der Flasche trinken</i>	to drink <i>out of</i> the bottle
		<i>aus der Nähe</i>	<i>from</i> close by
		<i>aus erster Hand</i>	at first hand
		<i>aus der Übung kommen</i>	to get <i>out of</i> practice
		<i>Aus dir wird nichts werden</i> (R1)	You'll never come to anything
	(b)	aus expressing material = (<i>made of</i>)	
		<i>aus Holz, Stahl, Eisen</i>	<i>made of</i> wood, steel, iron
USSER	(c)	aus expressing cause, motive = <i>for, from, out of</i>	
		<i>aus Furcht vor etw</i>	<i>for</i> fear of sth
		<i>aus diesem Grund</i>	<i>for</i> this reason
		<i>aus Überzeugung</i>	<i>from</i> conviction
		<i>aus Mitleid</i>	<i>out of</i> pity
	(a)	außer expressing restriction = <i>except (for), but for, besides, apart, Ausser dem Gehalt bekommt er noch einen Zuschuss</i>	<i>Apart from/Besides</i> his salary receives an allowance
		Niemand hat sie <i>gesehen außer</i>	Nobody saw her <i>except (for)</i>
	(b)	außer expressing place = <i>out of</i>	
		In modern usage <i>außer</i> is mainly used in this meaning in set phras with no article. In some the noun is in the genitive case, or, after a of motion, in the accusative case.	
		<i>außer Betrieb</i>	<i>out of</i> order
	<i>außer Dienst</i> (a.D.)	retired/not in active service	
	<i>etw außer Acht lassen</i>	to disregard sth	
	<i>außer Landes</i> (R3)	<i>out of</i> the country	
	Ich war <i>außer mir</i> (R2/R3)	I was <i>beside</i> myself	
	Es steht <i>außer jedem Zweifel</i>	It is <i>beyond</i> all doubt	
	<i>etw außer jeden Zweifel stellen</i>	to put sth <i>beyond</i> all doubt	

<i>mit leiser Stimme</i>	<i>in</i> a quiet voice
<i>mit 20 Jahren</i>	<i>at</i> the age of 20
<i>mit der Zeit</i>	<i>in</i> (the course of) time
<i>etw mit Absicht tun</i>	to do sth <i>on</i> purpose

(b)	mit expressing means of transport = <i>by</i>	
	<i>mit dem Flugzeug, Schiff, Zug</i>	<i>by</i> aeroplane, boat, train

NACH	(a)	nach expressing place = <i>to</i> (only with names and place adverbs – except in N)	
		<i>nach Genf</i>	<i>to</i> Geneva
		<i>nach Süden</i> (hin)	<i>to</i> the south
		<i>nach Finnland</i>	<i>to</i> Finland
		<i>nach innen, außen, oben, unten gehen</i>	to go inside, outside, up, down
		<i>nach rechts, links gehen</i>	to go (to the) right, left
		<i>nach Hause gehen</i>	to go home
		<i>nach allen Seiten</i>	<i>in</i> all directions
		Er geht <i>nach dem Bahnhof</i> (N)	He is going <i>to</i> the station
	(b)	nach expressing time = <i>after, past</i>	
		<i>nach fünf Jahren</i>	<i>after</i> five years, five years <i>later</i>
		<i>zehn nach sieben</i>	<i>past</i> seven
		Ich bin <i>nach ihm dran</i>	It's my turn <i>after</i> him
	(c)	nach in the sense of 'according' = <i>according to, judging by</i>	
		NOTE: in this sense <i>nach</i> can follow the noun, especially in some set phrases, in R3 and in the meaning 'judging by'.	
		<i>nach dem Gesetz</i> (R3) <i>dem Gesetz nach</i>	<i>according to</i> the law
		<i>meiner Meinung nach/nach meiner Meinung</i>	<i>in</i> my opinion
		<i>der Reihe nach</i>	<i>in</i> turns
		<i>allem Anschein nach</i>	<i>to</i> all appearances
		<i>nach französischer Art</i>	<i>in</i> the French manner
	<i>Ihrer Sprache nach ist sie Schweizerin</i>	<i>Judging by</i> the way she speaks, she is Swiss	
	<i>nach allem, was er gesagt hat</i>	<i>from</i> all he said	
	<i>etw nach dem Gewicht verkaufen</i>	to sell sth <i>by</i> weight	

SEIT	seit = <i>for</i> (a period of time up to now), <i>since</i> (a point in time)	
	<i>Seit drei Jahrhunderten gehört dieses Haus der königlichen Familie</i>	This house has belonged to the royal family <i>for</i> three centuries
	<i>seit Anfang des Jahres erst seit kurzem</i>	<i>since</i> the beginning of the year not <i>for</i> long, only <i>for</i> a little while

BEI	(a)	bei expressing place, etc = <i>by, at</i>	
		Pinneberg liegt <i>bei Hamburg</i>	Pinneberg is <i>by/near</i> Hamburg
		<i>bei meinen Eltern</i>	<i>at</i> my parents' (house)
		(<i>dicht</i>) <i>bei der Kirche</i>	(right) <i>by</i> the church
		die Schlacht <i>bei Hastings</i>	the battle <i>of</i> Hastings
		<i>bei Günter Grass</i>	<i>in</i> Günter Grass's works
		Er ist <i>bei der Bahn</i>	He works <i>for</i> the railways
		Wir haben Englisch <i>bei Frau Henne</i>	Frau Henne teaches us English
	(b)	bei expressing time = <i>at, by</i>	
		<i>beim Frühstück</i>	<i>at</i> breakfast
	<i>bei Gelegenheit</i>	when the opportunity arises	
	<i>bei schönem Wetter</i>	if/when the weather is fine	
	<i>bei diesen vielen Problemen</i>	<i>with/given</i> these many problems	
	das Schönste <i>bei der ganzen Sache</i>	the best thing <i>about</i> the whole business	
(c)	bei with verbal nouns = <i>on</i>		
	This usage is particularly frequent in modern R3b, though it is by no means restricted to it, see 5.2.3 and 5.3.2.		
	<i>bei der Ankunft des Zuges</i> (R3)	<i>on</i> the arrival of the train	
	<i>bei näherer Betrachtung</i> (R3)	<i>on</i> closer observation	
	<i>beim Schlafen, Essen</i>	whilst sleeping, eating	
	<i>bei der Arbeit</i>	when working	

GEGENÜBER	This can come before or after the noun. It tends to follow words for persons and always follows pronouns, otherwise it is commoner before the noun. In R1 it is often followed by <i>von</i> rather than being used on its own.	
	(a)	gegenüber expressing place = <i>opposite</i>
	<i>mir gegenüber</i>	<i>opposite</i> me
	<i>gegenüber von mir</i> (R1)	
	<i>gegenüber</i> (von R1) <i>der Kirche</i>	<i>opposite</i> the church
	<i>der Kirche gegenüber</i> (R3)	
(b)	gegenüber expressing comparison = <i>compared with, towards</i>	
	<i>ein Fortschritt gegenüber den Jahren davor</i>	an advance <i>compared with</i> previous years
	<i>eine neue Politik gegenüber dem Irak</i>	a new policy <i>towards</i> Iraq

MIT	(a)	mit in most senses = <i>with</i>	
		<i>mit dem Schlüssel</i>	<i>with</i> the key
		<i>mit meinem Freund</i>	together <i>with</i> my friend
		<i>zusammen</i>	
		<i>etw mit dem Fuß stoßen</i>	to kick sth
		<i>mit den Achseln zucken</i>	to shrug one's shoulders
	<i>mit anderen Worten</i>	<i>in</i> other words	

VON	(a)	von expressing place = <i>from</i> . <i>Aus</i> is added after the noun to stress the point of origin, and in some set phrases; <i>her</i> can be added after the noun to stress movement away from a point.	
		Er kommt <i>von seiner Mutter</i>	He's coming <i>from</i> his mother's
		Sie fährt <i>von Aachen nach Köln</i>	She's going from Aachen to Cologne
		<i>Von meinem Fenster</i> (aus) kann ich die Schule sehen	<i>From</i> (out of) the window I can see the school
		<i>von mir aus</i> (R1)	<i>as far as</i> I'm concerned
		<i>von Natur aus</i>	<i>by</i> nature
		Die Stimme kam <i>von oben</i> (her)	The voice came <i>from</i> above
	(b)	von expressing time = <i>from</i> . It can be strengthened by adding <i>an</i> after the noun.	
		<i>von Montag</i> (an)	<i>from</i> Monday
		<i>von alters her</i> (R3)	<i>from</i> time immemorial
	<i>von Zeit zu Zeit</i>	<i>from</i> time to time, occasionally	
(c)	von expressing possession, etc. = <i>of</i> . For the use of <i>von</i> or the genitive case, see 4.2.2.		
	<i>ein Stab von dieser Länge</i>	a bar <i>of</i> this length	
	der Verkauf <i>von Diamanten</i>	the sale <i>of</i> diamonds	
	Das war <i>nett von dir</i>	That was nice <i>of</i> you	
(d)	von in passive constructions = <i>by</i> (see 4.4.4)		
	<i>eine Oper von Verdi</i>	an opera <i>by</i> Verdi	
	Das wird <i>von ihm behauptet</i>	That is claimed <i>by</i> him	

ZU	(a)	zu expressing place = <i>to</i>	
		Dieser Bus fährt <i>zum Rathaus</i>	This bus goes <i>to</i> the town hall
		Er geht <i>zu seiner Nichte</i>	He is going <i>to</i> his niece's
		<i>zur Decke</i> (hin) <i>blicken</i>	to glance <i>towards</i> the ceiling
		<i>zur Schule gehen</i>	to go <i>to</i> school/attend school
		<i>zu Hause</i>	<i>at</i> home
		<i>zu beiden Seiten</i>	<i>on</i> either side
		Setz dich <i>zu uns</i>	Sit down <i>with</i> us
	(b)	zu expressing time = <i>at</i>	
		<i>zur Zeit des letzten deutschen Kaisers</i>	<i>at</i> the time of the last German emperor
	<i>zu Ende</i>	<i>at</i> an end	
	<i>zu Weihnachten</i>	<i>at/for</i> Christmas	
	die Nacht <i>zum Dienstag</i>	<i>in</i> the night from Monday to Tuesday	
	<i>Zu meinem Geburtstag hat sie mir ein Computerspiel geschenkt</i>	She gave me a computer game <i>for</i> my birthday	
	<i>zum Schluss</i>	finally	
	<i>zu Mittag essen</i>	to eat lunch	