

## GRAMMAR A2 EINHEIT 2

There is only one point of grammar covered in this unit ó two-way prepositions (*Wechselpräpositionen*).

You have already learned the prepositions that answer the question *wo* are followed by the dative case. The preposition used to make the point was *in*. *Mein Vater sitzt im Auto. Die Kinder spielen im Park. Hans ist in seinem Zimmer. Am Sonntag sind wir in der Kirche. Ich finde die Katze immer in meinem Bett.* The questions that elicit the above sentences as answers are: *Wo ist (sitzt) dein Vater? Wo spielen die Kinder? Wo ist Hans? Wo seid ihr am Sonntag? Wo findest du die Katze immer?* The verbs in these sentences don't express motion from one place to another. The subjects or objects never change location. Your father is in the car, the cat is in the bed, etc.

If, however, the verbs answered the question *wohin*, the objects would no longer be in the dative case. They would be in the accusative. Asking yourself if the verb answers the question *wohin* doesn't work well for us because we don't really have a word for *wohin*. Instead, you have to envision the sentence and ask yourself if anyone or anything is moving from one place to another in the prepositional phrase. Take, for example, *under the bed*. Does the sentence say the cat is crawling into the bed or is it simply in the bed or sleeping under the bed? Is my father (sitting) in the car or getting into the car? ó *Mein Vater sitzt im Auto. Mein Vater setzt sich ins Auto. Hans ist in seinem Zimmer. Hans geht in sein Zimmer. Am Sonntag sind wir in der Kirche. Am Sonntag gehen wir in die Kirche.*

The two-way prepositions are: *an* (on, onto (a vertical surface) - accusative, to (up to an edge) - accusative, at (at the edge) ó dative), *auf* (on, onto (horizontal surfaces), in (with languages), *hinter* (behind), *in* (in ódative, into ó accusative), *neben* (next to), *über* (over, above), *unter* (under), *vor* (in front of, before), *zwischen* (between).

*Stell das Fahrrad hinter das Haus. Das Fahrrad steht hinter dem Haus.  
Im Sommer fahren wir immer ans Meer. Wir verbringen den Sommer am Meer.  
Das Familienfoto hängt an der Wand über dem Bett.  
Häng das Familienfoto an die Wand über das Bett.*