

Common Verbs Used with “auf”

Hallo, Deutschler. This is my second of several videos that will introduce you to a ton of verb and preposition combinations in German. Today's video focuses on the combinations of “auf” and German verbs. I have a few videos about the so-called “verbs with fixed prepositions”, but none of them have really gone into as much detail as I would have liked. For that reason, I started this series of videos to take a deeper dive into them. Each video will explore a particular preposition and the verbs that are commonly used with them. These will all be added to a playlist, which is linked up here and in the description.

Today I'm focussing on the preposition “auf”, which is one of the two-way prepositions or “Wechselpräpositionen”. This means it can use either the accusative or dative case based on whether or not it describes a change in location. If you want to learn more about those prepositions, you should probably watch this video here first, which is also linked in the description. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYsmq7DYyOg>

In my video about combinations with “an”, I explained the logic of each sentence and why it took the accusative or dative case. In this video, I'll use the “vice versa test” to show you why each one requires accusative or dative. If you want a version of the video that doesn't have these explanations, click the link in the description for that video.

This version of the video is just the example sentences without an explanation of the reason for choosing the accusative or dative case. If you want to know the why behind the phrasing, click the link in the description for the other version of this lesson.

So without further ado, let's get into the list.

achten auf (acc) - to watch out for, pay attention to
ankommen auf (acc) - to come down to
antworten auf (acc) - to answer to / to reply to
aufpassen auf (acc) - to keep an eye on someone
basieren auf (dat) - to be based on
beharren auf (dat) - to insist on
beruhen auf (dat) - to be based on / to rely on
sich beschränken auf (acc) - to confine oneself to / to restrict oneself to
bestehen auf (dat) - to insist on
sich beziehen auf (acc) to concern, relate to
eingehen auf (acc) - to mention sth. / to discuss sth. / to react to sth./sb. / to focus on sb.
einwirken auf (acc) - to impact on sth. / to act upon sth./sb.
folgen auf (acc) - to follow (after)
sich freuen auf (acc) - to look forward to
hoffen auf (acc) - to hope for
hören auf (acc) - to listen to, heed
sich konzentrieren auf (acc) - to focus on / to concentrate on
reagieren auf (acc) - to react to
sich spezialisieren auf (acc) - to specialize in sth.

<https://youtu.be/LswbFI6LUNs>
<https://www.germanwithantrim.com>

Common Verbs Used with "auf"

sich verlassen auf (acc) - to depend on / to rely on

sich vorbereiten auf (acc) - to prepare oneself for

stehen auf (acc) - to like

stehen auf (dat) - to stand on (literally)

stoßen auf (acc) - to come across sth. / to encounter sb./sth.

verweisen auf (acc) - to point sth. out / to refer to sb./sth.

verzichten auf (acc) - to forgo / to pass sth. up

warten auf (acc) - to wait for

achten auf (acc) - to watch out for, pay attention to

Ich achte auf den Verkehr beim Überqueren der Straße. - I watch out for the traffic when crossing the street.

The vice versa test: dative means the watching out takes place physically on the traffic

ankommen auf (acc) - to come down to

Es kommt auf deine Entscheidung an. - It comes down to your decision.

The vice versa test: The coming down takes place physically on the decision.

antworten auf (acc) - to answer to / to reply to

Er antwortet auf meine E-Mail. - He answers/replies to my email.

The vice versa test: He waits physically on the email.

aufpassen auf (acc) - to keep an eye on someone

Bitte pass auf das Baby auf. - Please keep an eye on the baby.

The vice versa test: The aufpassen takes place physically on the baby.

basieren auf (dat) - to be based on

Der Film basiert auf einer wahren Geschichte. - The movie is based on a true story.

The vice versa test: The basieren moves towards a true story. Cannot work, because basieren expresses a stationary action. The accusative forces a stationary action to move, which it rarely can.

beharren auf (dat) - to insist on

Sie beharrt auf ihrem Standpunkt. - She insists on her point of view.

The vice versa test: The beharren moves towards a PoV. Cannot work, because beharren expresses a stationary action. The accusative forces a stationary action to move, which it rarely can.

beruhen auf (dat) - to be based on / to rely on

Die Ergebnisse beruhen auf umfangreichen Untersuchungen. - The results are based on extensive research.

The vice versa test: The beruhen moves towards researches. Cannot work, because beruhen expresses a stationary action. The accusative forces a stationary action to move, which it rarely can.

<https://youtu.be/LswbFI6LUNs>

<https://www.germanwithantrim.com>

Common Verbs Used with "auf"

sich beschränken auf (acc) - to confine oneself to / to restrict oneself to

Ich beschränke mich auf die notwendigen Aufgaben. - I confine/restrict myself to the necessary tasks.

The vice versa test: With dative, the confining takes place physically on the tasks.

bestehen auf (dat) - to insist on

Er besteht auf einer Entschuldigung. - He insists on an apology.

Bestehen is a stationary action.

sich beziehen auf (acc) - to concern, relate to

Die Diskussion bezieht sich auf das Thema Umweltschutz. - The discussion relates to the topic of environmental protection.

The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

eingehen auf (acc) - to mention sth. / to discuss sth. / to react to sth./sb. / to focus on sb.

Der Redner geht auf die Kritikpunkte ein. - The speaker mentions/discusses the points of criticism.

The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

einwirken auf (acc) - to impact on sth. / to act upon sth./sb.

Die Werbung wirkt auf die Kunden ein. - The advertisement impacts/acts upon the customers.

The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

folgen auf (acc) - to follow (after)

Der Sommer folgt auf den Frühling. - Summer follows after spring.

The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

sich freuen auf (acc) - to look forward to

Ich freue mich auf das Wochenende. - I'm looking forward to the weekend.

The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

hoffen auf (acc) - to hope for

Ich hoffe auf eine positive Antwort. - I hope for a positive response.

The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

hören auf (acc) - to listen to, heed

Bitte hör auf meine Anweisungen. - Please listen to/heed my instructions.

The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

sich konzentrieren auf (acc) - to focus on / to concentrate on

Ich konzentriere mich auf meine Arbeit. - I focus/concentrate on my work.

The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

<https://youtu.be/LswbFI6LUNs>

<https://www.germanwithantrim.com>

Common Verbs Used with “auf”

reagieren auf (acc) - to react to

Er reagiert empört auf die Kritik. - He reacts angrily to the criticism.
The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

sich spezialisieren auf (acc) - to specialize in sth.

Er spezialisiert sich auf digitales Marketing. - He specializes in digital marketing.
The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

sich verlassen auf (acc) - to depend on / to rely on

Ich verlasse mich auf deine Unterstützung. - I depend/rely on your support.
The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

sich vorbereiten auf (acc) - to prepare oneself for

Ich bereite mich auf die Prüfung vor. - I prepare myself for the exam.
The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

stehen auf (acc) - to like

Sie steht auf romantische Komödien. - She likes romantic comedies.
The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

stehen auf (dat) - to stand on (literally)

Das Glas steht auf dem Tisch. - The glass stands on the table.
The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

stoßen auf (acc) - to come across sth. / to encounter sb./sth.

Sie stößt auf ein interessantes Buch. - She comes across an interesting book.
The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

verweisen auf (acc) - to point sth. out / to refer to sb./sth.

Ich verweise auf die im Anhang genannten Informationen. - I point out/refer to the information mentioned in the appendix.
The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

verzichten auf (acc) - to forgo / to pass sth. up

Ich verzichte auf Dessert, danke. - I'll forgo/pass up dessert, thank you.
The vice versa test creates an absurd meaning.

warten auf (acc) - to wait for

Wir warten auf den Bus. - We are waiting for the bus.
You hardly wait physically on a bus.

If you liked this German grammar deep dive, I've got dozens more of these online. All of them are aimed at one thing, helping you ace your next German exam. These lessons range from FREE school-related German materials – that'll make you look like you absorbed a entire

<https://youtu.be/LswbFI6LUNs>
<https://www.germanwithantrim.com>

Common Verbs Used with “auf”

textbook overnight – to my Deutschlerner Club, which is an online school that'll provide all the necessary lessons and resources on the A1 and A2 levels... in a never-be-bored content format. Best of all, it costs a MILLION times less than your average German tutor or class. Click [here](#) or the link below to learn more about my movement to change how people learn German online.

<https://youtu.be/LswbFI6LUNs>

<https://www.germanwithantrim.com>