

Verbs That Trigger the Accusative Case in German

Question 1: Verbs for Moving Things from Place to Place

Most verbs in German that correspond to the English verb "put" trigger the **accusative case** in the **articles**, **possessive pronouns** and **adjective endings** that follow. Here are some examples:

- Du kannst dein Gepäck **in dieses Zimmer** bringen. → You can put your luggage in this room.
- Ihr könnt eure Fahrräder **in unsere Garage** stellen. → You can put your bikes in our garage.
- Sobald der Brotteig aufgegangen ist, schiebe ich ihn **in den Ofen**. → As soon as the bread dough has risen, I put it in the oven.

Can you match up these **key movement verbs** with their English meaning? Here are the choices:

bringen • hängen • legen • lehnen • schieben • stecken • stellen • werfen

- a _____ → to lay something horizontally on a surface
b _____ → to stand something up vertically
c _____ → to push into, to shove
d _____ → to lean something on or against
e _____ → to stick or slip something into
f _____ → to hang
g _____ → to bring, take, fetch
h _____ → to throw, to cast, to project



Question 2: Verbs for the Movement of People (mostly)

Can you match up these **key movement verbs** with their English meaning? Here are the choices:

fallen • laufen • setzen / sich setzen • springen • treten

- a _____ → to seat someone or oneself; also - to place something on or against a part of one's body
b _____ → to jump
c _____ → to tread
d _____ → to walk, run
e _____ → to fall

Mehr zum Thema Willy Brandts Kniefall: Diese Geste wurde als eine Bitte um Vergebung für die Gräueltaten der Nazis während des Zweiten Weltkriegs verstanden.

* fiel = past tense of fallen

* sank = past tense of sinken

Man könnte auch sagen: Willy Brandt sank** auf die Knie.



1970 fiel* Willy Brandt, der damalige Kanzler von Deutschland, in Warschau auf die Knie.

Question 3: Applying Accusative Endings

Highlight the correct **article** in the **sentences denoting movement** below. Remember to choose the response that corresponds to the **accusative case**.

a Können Sie frische Bettlaken **auf** das / dem **Bett** legen? → Can you put fresh sheets on the bed?

b Während des Spiels ist der Torhüter mehrmals **auf** dem / den **Boden** gefallen. → During the game, the goal-keeper fell on the ground several times.

c Meine Mutter hat gerade einen Apfelkuchen **in** dem / den **Ofen** geschoben. → My mother has just put an apple cake in the oven.

d Könnt ihr die Wolldecke falten und sie **auf** der / die **Couch** legen? → Can you fold the woollen blanket and put it on the couch?

e Der Lehrer hat das Schulzeugnis **in** einem / einen **Umschlag** gesteckt. → The teacher put the school report into the envelope.

f Jeden Abend bringen die Eltern ihre Kinder um acht Uhr ins / in dem **Bett**. → The parents put their children to bed every evening at 8 o'clock.

g Ich möchte nur einen kurzen Blick **in** den / dem **Spiegel** werfen. → I'd like to just glance in the mirror.

h Im Sommer springen die Kinder immer gerne in dem / ins **Schwimmbad**. → In the summer, the children are always keen to jump into the pool.

i Er bringt die Einkäufe **in** die / der **Küche**... → He brings the groceries into the kitchen...

j ...und stellt sie **in** den / die **Küchenschränke**. → ...and puts them in the kitchen cupboards.



Some Practice Using the Placement Verbs:

- Look up some examples for each verb in your dictionary and create a set of notes. You can also use the description at this link: <https://germanisland.edublogs.org/extras/translating-put-into-german/>

- Write a sentence for each of the key verbs in German, remembering to use the accusative endings after the prepositions. Which verbs would you need and use to describe common movements, both of people and objects, in your everyday life?

- Write a short conversation in German between you and a family member in which you discuss where things should be placed in a room.