

# SEPARABLE- PREFIX VERBS

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Many verbs in German can add a **prefix** which modifies or changes the meaning of the verb. Those separable prefixes are words that can stand on their own (e.g., *auf*, *aus*, *zu*, etc.). When they are added to a verb, they become the stressed syllable. Here are some verbs that you already know and some new common ones with separable prefixes:

*hören* – to hear

*stehen* – to stand

*machen* – to do

*zuhören* – to listen

*aufstehen* – to stand up

*zumachen* – to close

*ausmachen* – to switch off

*sehen* – to see

*kommen* – to come

*kaufen* – to buy

*gehen* – to go

*fangen* – to catch

*lesen* – to read

*schlafen* – to sleep

*rufen* – to call, shout

**f***ern*sehen – to watch TV

**a***us*sehen – to look

**a***n*kommen – to arrive

**m***it*kommen – to come along

**e***in*kaufen – to go shopping/  
to shop for

**a***us*gehen – to go out

**a***n*fangen – to start, to begin

**w***eiter*lesen – to continue  
reading

**e***in*schlafen – to fall asleep

**a***n*rufen – to call someone on  
the phone

When you use any of these verbs in a sentence in present tense, you separate the **prefix** from the verb and put it **at the end of the sentence**. The conjugated form of the verb goes in second position as usual.

*Die Kinder **machen** die Bücher **zu**.* – The children close the books.

*Hans **kauft** im Supermarkt **ein**.* – Hans goes shopping in the supermarket.

*Wir **gehen** heute Abend mit Freunden **aus**.* – We are going out with friends this evening.

*Der Bus **kommt** um 19 Uhr in Köln **an**.* – The bus arrives in Cologne at 7pm.

*Tim **ruft** seine Freundin **an**.* – Tim calls/phones his girl friend.