

## LESSON 25

### TRENNBARE VERBEN – SEPARABLE VERBS

#### OBJECTIVE

- Introduction to trennbare Verben – separable verbs
- Specific features of trennbare Verben
- Construction and use of trennbare Verben

#### SUMMARY

In this lesson, our focus would be on a special group of verbs known as '**trennbare Verben**'. Here, we would concentrate on some specific features of these verbs, their construction and use. With the help of examples and exercises the concept of '**trennbare Verben**' would be explained in a better manner.

#### TEXT

**Trennbare Verben**, or separable verbs, as the name suggests refers to a group of verbs in German, which can be separated. These verbs contain two parts. One part consists of the 'prefix' and the other part consists of the verb. In German all the verbs which are not conjugated with any nouns or pronouns are called infinitive verbs. '**Trennbare Verben**' also remains as infinitive verbs till they are conjugated. During conjugation, the prefix of the verb is detached or separated and it is placed at the end. Then the prefix becomes suffix. The verb gets conjugated according to the noun or the pronoun in singular or plural.

For example, the verb '**mit-kommen**'. Here this **trennbare Verb** is in infinitive form. It has two parts. The part '**mit**' is the prefix and the verb is '**kommen**'.

*Ich komme mit.*

Here when the **trennbare Verb** is conjugated, the prefix '**mit**' turns into suffix '**mit**' and goes to the end of the sentence. The verb is conjugated and retains its 2<sup>nd</sup> position.

We know that the verb '**kommen**' means 'to come'. However, with the addition of the prefix '**mit**' the verb gets a modified meaning, which means to come along. Therefore, it is very important to stress the prefix while using separable verbs as the prefix determines the meaning of the verb.

## **Special features of trennbare Verben – separable verbs**

1. Addition of prefix changes or modifies the meaning of the verb.
2. In the infinitive form, the prefix remains attached to the verb and it is stressed.
3. The prefix does not influence the verb conjugation. Only nouns and pronouns can conjugate the verbs.
4. Not all verbs are separable, though they may appear so. There are some prefixes which are also attached to inseparable verbs.
5. Some common prefixes used with **trennbare Verben** are 'ab-, an-, auf-, aus-, bei-, ein-, los-, mit-, nach-, zu-, zurück' etc.
6. Some common prefixes which are used with **untrennbare Verben** (inseparable verbs) are 'be-, ver-, ent-, er-, emp-' etc.
7. Trennbare Verben change their form in some specific grammatical contexts like tense forms and sentence construction like relative sentences or sentences with subordinate clauses.

**CASE STUDY – This lesson does not require any case study.**

### **FAQs**

**Q: How can one distinguish between separable and inseparable verbs?**

**A:** In order to distinguish between separable and inseparable verbs, it is necessary to know which prefixes usually make the separable verbs and which prefixes usually have inseparable verbs. There are also some prefixes which may be used either with separable verbs or inseparable verbs.

**Q: Are there only limited number of separable and inseparable verbs?**

**A:** There are a large number of separable and inseparable verbs. As the language evolves, new forms of verbs are included in it.

### **ASSIGNMENT**

1. Please make a list of all the separable verbs discussed in the video and categorise them into regular verbs (regelmäßige Verben) and irregular verbs (unregelmäßige Verben)
2. Choose any ten separable verbs and make new sentences. Try to use Nominativ and Akkusativ (nouns, pronouns etc.) in each sentence.

**QUIZ - Choose the correct response from the given options.**

1. Which of the following is a '**trennbares Verb**'?  
a) verladen  
b) entladen  
c) **einladen**  
d) beladen
  
2. Which of the following is a '**trennbares Verb**'?  
a) verkaufen  
b) **einkaufen**  
c) bekaufen  
d) erkaufen
  
3. Kommst du heute nach Haus \_\_\_\_\_?  
a) **zurück**  
b) zu  
c) ein  
d) ab
  
4. Wann fängt der Test \_\_\_\_\_?  
a) aus  
b) ab  
c) ver  
d) **an**
  
5. Ich ziehe mein Kind\_\_\_\_\_.  
a) ver  
b) be  
c) **an**  
d) ent
  
6. Mein Vater \_\_\_\_\_ die Wäsche \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) hängt...ab  
b) hängt...zu  
c) **hängt...auf**  
d) hängt...an
  
7. Er \_\_\_\_\_ seinen Freund vom Bahnhof \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) holt...zu  
b) **holt...ab**  
c) holt...ver  
d) holt...ent
  
8. Martin \_\_\_\_\_ für die Party das Abendessen \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) bereitet...ab  
b) bereitet...an  
c) **bereitet...vor**  
d) bereitet...auf

9. Meine Nachbarin \_\_\_\_\_ mich zur Party \_\_\_\_\_.

- a) **lädt...ein**
- b) ladt...ein
- c) ladet...ein
- d) lädet...ein

10. \_\_\_\_\_ du mich bitte an die Universität \_\_\_\_\_?

- a) nimmst...mit
- b) **nimmst...mit**
- c) nimmst...mit
- d) niehmst...mit

### TUTORIALS/

<https://learngerman.dw.com/en/separable-verbs-2/l-37445884/e-37452217>

<http://germansteps.com/separabel-inseparable-verbs/exercise-1/>

### LINKS

<https://learngerman.dw.com/en/separable-verbs/gr-38318288>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/german/grammar/verbsseparablerev1.shtml>

### REFERENCES

Funk, H. **Studio d.** A1, Cornelsen, Berlin / Goyal Saab, Delhi

### GLOSSARY

mitkommen – to come along

anrufen – to make a telephone call

zurückkommen – to come back

mitsingen – to sing along

einkaufen – to shop

ausgehen – to go out to some place

einsteigen – to get inside a vehicle

einladen – to invite

anfangen – to begin

mitfahren – to travel along / to drive along

mitnehmen – to take along

abfahren – to drive away/ to depart

anziehen – to dress someone

aufräumen – to clean/ to tidy up

aufhängen – to hang up something

abholen – to pick up

vorbereiten – to prepare

aufstehen – to get up, to stand up

mitarbeiten – to work along, to work with

bitte – please

jeden Tag – every day, daily

immer – always

spät - delay

der Zug – train

der Vater – father

das Lied – song  
das Frühstück – breakfast  
das Abendessen - dinner

die Party – party  
die Konferenz – conference  
die Wäsche–clothes to be washed  
die Nachbarin – neighbour (female)