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## SEPARABLE VERBS AND REFLEXIVE VERBS

### Separable Verbs

**Separable Verbs** consist of two parts:

1. a prefix (e.g. **ab, zu**)  
+
2. a basic verb (e.g. **fahren, machen, bringen**)

### Examples

abfahren: Der Zug **fährt** um 9 Uhr **ab**. = The train leaves/departs at 9 o'clock.

zumachen: Das Kind **macht** die Tür **zu**. = The child is closing the door.

The following are separable prefixes and examples of separable verbs:

<b>ab-</b>	abtrocknen = to do the drying-up
<b>an-</b>	ankommen = to arrive
<b>auf-</b>	aufstehen = to get up
<b>aus-</b>	aussteigen = to get out of/get off
<b>bei-</b>	beitragen (zu) = to contribute (to); to help (to)
<b>da-</b>	dasitzen = to sit there
<b>ein-</b>	einladen = to invite
<b>empor-</b>	emporblicken (zu) = to raise one's eyes; to look up (to)
<b>entgegen-</b>	entgegenfahren = to travel towards; to approach (+ dative)
<b>fehl-</b>	fehlgehen = to go wrong; to miss the way
<b>fest-</b>	festhalten = to keep hold of; to hold onto
<b>fort-</b>	fortsetzen = to continue
<b>frei-</b>	freihaben = to have a holiday
<b>gegen-</b>	gegeneinanderstoßen = to collide, bump into
<b>gleich-</b>	gleichstellen = to treat as equal
<b>her-</b>	herbitten = to ask to come
<b>herab-</b>	herabsehen (auf + acc) = to look down on
<b>heran-</b>	heranbringen = to bring over
<b>herauf-</b>	heraufbringen = to bring up
<b>heraus-</b>	herausgeben = to return/give back; to surrender/hand over
<b>herbei-</b>	herbeibringen = to bring over; to provide
<b>herein-</b>	hereinkommen (in + acc) = to come in (-to)
<b>herüber-</b>	herüberfahren = to drive over/across
<b>herum-</b>	herumfahren = to go/drive/travel around

<b>herunter-</b>	herunterbrennen = to burn down
<b>hervor-</b>	hervorgehen = to come from; to follow
<b>hierher-</b>	hierherschicken = to send here
<b>hin-</b>	hinfallen = to fall (down)
<b>hinab-/hinunter-</b>	hinunterfahren = to go down/descend
<b>hinauf-</b>	hinaufsehen = to look up
<b>hinaus-</b>	hinausfahren = to drive out of something
<b>hindurch-</b>	hindurchgehen = to go through
<b>hinein-</b>	hineinreden = to interrupt
<b>hinter-</b>	hintergehen (in + acc) = to go to the back of
<b>hinüber-</b>	hinüberfahren = to take across
<b>hinweg-</b>	hinwegtäuschen = to mislead, to deceive
<b>hoch-</b>	hochachten = to respect highly
<b>los-</b>	losfahren = to set off
<b>mit-</b>	mitbringen = to bring along
<b>nach-</b>	nachdenken (über + acc) = to think (about), consider
<b>nieder-</b>	niederlassen = to lie down, to sit down
<b>um-</b>	umsteigen (nach) = to change (buses, trains) (for)
<b>vor-</b>	vorhaben = to intend
<b>voran-</b>	voranmachen = to get a move on
<b>voraus-</b>	vorausschicken = to send in advance
<b>vorbei-</b>	vorbeikommen = to pass, go past
<b>vorüber-</b>	vorübergehen = to go past, pass (by)
<b>weg-</b>	wegfahren = to go away
<b>wieder-</b>	wiederholen = to get back (but wiederholen = 'to repeat' is inseparable!)
<b>zu-</b>	zumachen = to close
<b>zurecht-</b>	zurechtmachen = to prepare/get ready (meal)
<b>zurück-</b>	zurückkommen = to come back, return
<b>zusammen-</b>	zusammenarbeiten = to cooperate

## Reflexive Verbs

**Reflexive verbs** are verbs which involve the subject doing something to himself, herself or itself. They are formed by adding a reflexive pronoun (**mich, dich, sich, uns, euch, sich**) after the verb.

## Examples

- ich wasche **mich** = I wash myself (I get washed)  
 du wäschst **dich** = you wash yourself  
 er/sie/es/man wäscht **sich** = he/she/it/one washes him/her/it/oneself  
 wir waschen **uns** = we wash ourselves  
 ihr wascht **euch** = you wash yourselves  
 Sie waschen **sich** = you (formal) wash yourself/yourselves  
 sie waschen **sich** = they wash themselves

There are quite a few common reflexive verbs in German. It is important to remember, however, that many of their English equivalents do not involve **myself**, **yourself**, **himself**, **herself**, etc.

## Examples

**sich ärgern** = to get annoyed  
 Ich ärgere mich, wenn das Wetter schlecht ist. = I get annoyed when the weather is bad.

**sich rasieren** = to have a shave; **sich duschen** = to shower/have a shower  
 Er rasiert sich, bevor er sich duscht. = He has a shave before he showers.

**sich hinsetzen** = to sit down  
 Bitte setzen Sie sich hin! = Please sit down!

**sich umziehen** = to get changed  
 Das Kind zieht sich um. = The child is getting changed.

**sich beeilen** = to hurry up  
 Beeil dich doch! = Hurry up!

There are also some expressions which have dative reflexive pronouns + a direct object. The only changes made to the pronouns are:

**mich** becomes **mir**, **dich** becomes **dir**

## Examples

- sich die Hände waschen** = to wash one's hands  
 Du musst dir die Hände waschen. = You must wash your hands.  
**sich etwas ansehen** = to have a look at something  
 Wir sehen uns das Bild an. = We are having a look at the picture.

**sich etwas aussuchen** = to find oneself something

Er hat sich ein neues Auto ausgesucht. = He found himself a new car.

The following is a list of **common reflexive verbs** in German.

**sich abtrocknen** = to dry oneself

**sich amüsieren** = to have fun

**sich ändern** = to change

**sich anhören** = to sound

**sich anmelden (für/an)** = to register (for/at)

**sich anpassen** = to adapt; to fit in

**sich anziehen** = to get dressed

**sich ausruhen** = to have a rest

**sich ausziehen** = to get undressed

**sich (bei jemandem) bedanken** = to thank someone

**sich befinden** = to be (located)

**sich beklagen** = to complain

**sich bemühen** = to try to; to make an effort to

**sich benehmen** = to behave

**sich beschäftigen (mit)** = to be busy (with)

**sich beschweren** = to complain

**sich bewerben (um, bei)** = to apply (for, to)

**sich eignen (für/zu)(als)** = to be suitable (for)(as)

**sich (für etwas) entscheiden** = to decide (on something)

**sich entschließen** = to decide

**sich entschuldigen** = to apologise

**sich entspannen** = to relax, to unwind

**sich ereignen** = to happen, to occur

**sich erinnern an + acc** = to remember

**sich erkälten** = to catch a cold

**sich freuen** = to be pleased

**sich freuen auf** = to look forward to

**sich freuen über** = to be pleased about

**sich fühlen** = to feel

**sich (dat) gefallen** = to like

**sich an jemanden/etwas gewöhnen** = to become/get used to someone/something

**sich handeln um** = to be about

**sich hungern** = to hunger

**sich interessieren (für)** = to be interested (in)

**sich irren** = to be wrong/mistaken

**sich (dat) kämmen** = to comb one's hair

**sich konzentrieren** = to concentrate

**sich kümmern** = to concern, to worry

**sich kümmern um** = to look after, to take care of

**sich langweilen** = to be/get bored

**sich (dat) leisten** = to afford

**sich lieben** = to love one another

**sich schließen** = to close

**sich schminken** = to put make-up on

**sich sehnen** = to long/yearn

**sich setzen** = to sit down

**sich sorgen um** = to be worried/to worry about

**sich sorgen für** = to take care of, to look after

**sich streiten (über, mit)** = to argue, to quarrel (about, with)

**sich treffen (mit)** = to meet (with)

**sich (dat) überlegen** = to think about

SAMPLE