

■ 15.5.2 **trotz** (*in spite of*)

Trotz all seiner
Bemühungen konnte die
Arbeit nicht rechtzeitig
fertig gestellt werden.

*In spite of all his efforts the work
could not be finished on time.*

■ 15.5.3 **während** (*during*)

Sie war sehr nervös
während des
Vorstellungsgesprächs.

*She was very nervous during
the interview.*

■ 15.5.4 **wegen** (*because of, about, concerning*)

Wir sind **wegen** des
Regens nicht in die Stadt
gegangen.
Wir müssen noch **wegen**
des Termins miteinander
sprechen.

*We didn't go into town because
of the rain.*

*We still have to talk about the
date.*

15.6 Contracted and combined forms

Prepositions are invariable in form. However, they can combine with other words in the following ways.

■ 15.6.1 Some common prepositions often form contractions with the definite article (e.g. **zu + dem = zum**): see 5.1.2.

■ 15.6.2 In place of the following prepositions plus the pronouns 'it' or 'them' (referring to things, not people), a single word is formed from **da-** + the preposition: **dabei, dadurch, dafür, dagegen, dahinter, damit, danach, daneben, davon, davor, dazu, dazwischen.**

An **r** is inserted if the preposition begins with a vowel:
daran, darauf, daraus, darin, darum, darunter, darüber.

Bist du **damit** *Do you agree with it?*
einverstanden?

Das sind meine Vorschläge, *These are my suggestions;*
können wir **darüber** *can we talk about them?*
sprechen?

The **da-** forms are also used

- to refer to a specific group of people:
Ich erwarte acht Gäste, *I am expecting eight guests,*
darunter zwei *among them two actors.*
Schauspieler.
- to refer back to a preceding sentence/clause:
Seid ihr **damit** *Do you agree with that?*
einverstanden?
- to refer forward to a following clause:
Ich freue mich **darauf**, *I'm looking forward to ...*
dass ...

■ 15.6.3 In place of a preposition plus the question word **was?** (*what?*) a single word is formed from **wo(r)-** + preposition with the same prepositions as above (15.6.2).

Wozu brauchst du das? *What do you need this for?*
Worüber haben sie *What did they talk about?*
gesprochen?

This form is also used for a preposition plus the relative pronoun **was** (*which, that*), referring to things, not people:

Das Buch, **worüber** wir *The book (that) we talked*
gesprochen haben, ist *about is here.*
hier.