

Separable Verbs

Languages

Verbs that split in half, where each half goes, and how to spot them.

In a main clause, a separable prefix detaches and moves to the end.

aufstehen → Ich stehe um 7 Uhr auf

anrufen – to call

The an goes last.

Ich rufe dich an

In a subordinate clause

Rejoined, because the verb is last anyway.

..., weil ich dich anrufe

In the perfect

ge- goes between prefix and stem.

Ich habe dich angerufen

THE COMMON MISTAKE

✗ **Treating every prefix as separable**

✓ **Inseparable prefixes never detach**

be-, emp-, ent-, er-, ge-, miss-, ver-, zer- are inseparable and take no ge- in the participle.

Separable prefixes are stressed when spoken; inseparable ones are not. The stress is the reliable test.