

im/ins/am

Three blue horizontal lines of varying lengths are drawn below the words "im", "ins", and "am" to serve as underlines.



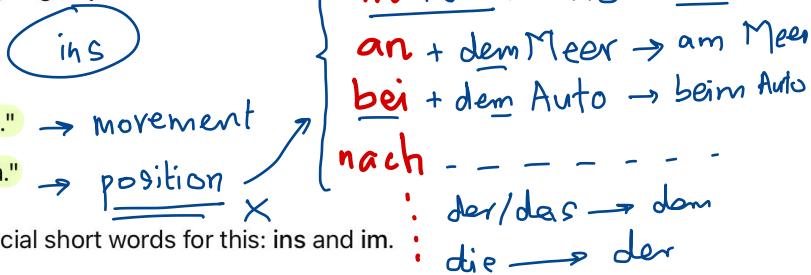
Where are you going? ins, im & ans

Hello! Let's talk about going to places.

In English, we say:

- "We go to the cinema." → movement
 - "We are in the cinema." → position

In German, we have special short words for this: **ins** and **im**.



Part 1: What do 'ins' and 'im' mean?

These words are shortcuts! They are a combination of a preposition and the German word for "the" (das or dem).

Let's break them down:

ins = in + das

- in means "to" or "in"
 - das is the article for neuter nouns (like Kino, Schwimmbad, Restaurant)
 - ins means "to the" or "into the"

$$im = in + dem$$

- *in* means "in"
 - *dem* is a special form of *der*, *das*,
 - *im* means "in the"

→ ich bin im Garten (m)
→ Ich gehe in den Garten (m)
(like Kino, Schwimmbad, Restaurant)

→  → Akkusative → der → den

Ich gebe in das Kino

Ich gebe ins Kino

Ich bin in das Kino

Ich bin in dem Kino

Ich bin in dem Kino

dem

das/der

dem

bei
nach
gegen
an
in

m } dem
n } der
p } den

The Key Difference: Movement vs. Location

This is the most important rule!

Use **ins** when there is MOVEMENT.

You are going to a place, or into a place.

- **Wir gehen ins Kino.** (We are going *to* the cinema.)
- **Ich gehe ins Bett.** (I am going *to* bed.)

Use **im** when there is NO MOVEMENT (LOCATION).

You are already in that place.

- **Wir sind im Kino.** (We are *in* the cinema.)
- **Das Kind schläft im Bett.** (The child is sleeping *in* bed.)

Let's Practice with **ins** and **im**

Here are some common places (all neuter nouns, so they use **das**):

Place (Noun)	Example with MOVEMENT (ins)	Example with LOCATION (im)
das Kino (cinema)	Wir gehen ins Kino .	Der Film ist im Kino gut.
das Schwimmbad (pool)	Gehst du ins Schwimmbad ?	Ich schwimme im Schwimmbad .
das Restaurant (restaurant)	Sie fahren ins Restaurant .	Sie essen im Restaurant .
das Büro (office)	Er geht ins Büro .	Er arbeitet im Büro .
das Bett (bed)	Ich gehe ins Bett .	Ich liege im Bett .

What about **ans**?

ans = **an** + **das**

- **an** means "to" or "on" / at
- **das** is the article for neuter nouns
- **ans** means "to the" (when the place is by a shore or coast, or for abstract concepts)

We use **ans** mostly with specific nouns.

Examples with MOVEMENT (**ans**):

at

an + das Meer

• Wir fahren **ans** Meer. (We are driving **to the** sea.)

• Er geht **ans** Fenster. (He goes **to the** window.)

• Denk **ans** Essen! (Think about **the** food! / literal: to the food)

wir sind **am** Meer

Let's Compare All Three

ans
 ↗ ↘
 (an) + (das)

Ich denke an dich
 Sie arbeitet an einem
 Projekt
 Ich glaube an
 Gott

an → (water bodies) / abstract concepts

ix

an dem
 Ich bin am Meer (D)
 Ich gehe ans Meer (A)
an das

Contraction	Meaning	Used for...	Example
ins	to the / into the	Movement into a place (neuter nouns)	Ich gehe *ins* Café. (I'm going *to the* café.)
im	in the	Location inside a place (masculine/neuter nouns)	Ich trinke Kaffee *im* Café. (I drink coffee *in the* café.)
ans	to the / on the	Movement to a border/edge (sea, window) or abstract ideas	Wir fahren *ans* Meer. (We drive *to the* sea.)

Important Note: **im** can also be used with *masculine* nouns! **im** = **in** + **dem**, and **dem** is also for masculine nouns.

- Er ist **im** Supermarkt. (He is **in the** supermarket.) - *der Supermarkt*

Quick Summary & Rule

1. Where are you GOING? → Use ins or ans (Movement).
2. Where are you? → Use im (Location).
3. ins = in + das am beim
4. im = in + dem
5. ans = an + das

Let's Practice!

Fill in the blanks with ins, im, or ans.

1. Heute gehen wir _____ Kino. (Today we are going to the cinema.)
2. Der Film ist _____ Kino sehr lang. (The film in the cinema is very long.)
3. Im Sommer fahren wir _____ Meer. (In summer we go to the sea.)
4. Peter arbeitet _____ Büro. (Peter works in the office.)
5. Kinder, geht ihr _____ Schwimmbad? (Kids, are you going to the pool?)
6. Sie schwimmen _____ Schwimmbad. (They are swimming in the pool.)