German verb-preposition collocations

Many German verbs require the use of fixed prepositions; these verb-preposition collocations are usually different from their English equivalents. For example: to wait for -> warten auf

Look at the following examples of such verb-preposition collocations. They come from a German corpus (a large electronic collection of German texts) – Das Digitale Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache, or DWDS (www.dwds.de). The examples are organized in concordances – stacked lines of examples from different texts with the search words in the middle.

Work with a partner. In each line, underline the noun phrase immediately following the preposition: i.e., the personal pronoun or the noun with the article or adjective that modifies it. Decide together with a partner what case the noun phrase is in (e.g., accusative, dative). NB: you do not need to translate the sentences. Then, write out the verb + preposition + case collocation. Finally, write an example sentence.

Example: to wait for

Verb-preposition-case collocation: warten + auf + acc. (accusative)

Write an example sentence about yourself: Ich warte auf die Frühlingsferien.

Tasks:

1. to think of

Verb-preposition-case collocation: ______________________ + __________ + __________

Write your example sentence: __________________________________________________________

2. to be interested in

Verb-preposition-case collocation: ______________________ + __________ + __________

Write your example sentence: __________________________________________________________
3. to occupy oneself with

Verb-preposition-case collocation: __________________________ + _______ + _______

Write your example sentence: __________________________________________________________

4. to do without

Verb-preposition-case collocation: __________________________ + _______ + _______

Write your example sentence: __________________________________________________________

5. to be annoyed about

Verb-preposition-case collocation: __________________________ + _______ + _______

Write your example sentence: __________________________________________________________

6. Exchange questions and answers with a partner using the sentences you wrote. Correct each other if you notice article and case mistakes.

For example:

A. Ich warte auf die Sommerferien. Und du?
B. Ich warte auf das Basketballspiel.