

to stop

„aufhalten“ is not only useful for holding a door open, it is also useful if you're dealing with a self aware evil super genius door that wants to take over the world.

Because „aufhalten“ can also mean „to stop“ and there's actually a close counterpart in English: to hold up.

The German version is just a bit more broad and can range from the Avengers stopping Thanos to a mundane „hold up“ like your roommate telling you about their day when you actually have to go.

Just to make sure: „aufhalten“ does not work in contexts like „How you're holding up?“. The core idea really is „stop/hold on a spot“.

- Pony-Man will die Welt zerstören. Wir müssen ihn aufhalten.
- Pony-Man wants to destroy the world. We have to stop him.

- Das Problem mit meinem Computer hat mich sehr aufgehalten.
- The problem with my computer held me up quite a bit.

