

Deutsch lernen und unterrichten – Arbeitsmaterialien

Radio D – Teil 1

Episode 06 – How Did King Ludwig Die?

In Neuschwanstein Castle, Paula and Philipp meet a secretive stranger who is wearing King Ludwig's cloak. They do some research on the mysterious circumstances surrounding Ludwig's death.

A man with King Ludwig's majestic cloak around his shoulders wants to make Paula and Philipp believe that he is the late monarch. How did Ludwig actually die? The two journalists create a radio play to illuminate for their listeners the various theories on King Ludwig's unresolved death at Lake Starnberg. No one knows for sure if it was murder or suicide.

The meeting with the mysterious man is an opportunity to hear the customary differences when speaking with a friend or a stranger. Listen for the formal "**Sie**" and the informal "**du**." The infinitive of the verb "**sein**" (to be) is.

Manuskript der Folge 06

You're listening to Radio D, the radio language course of Redaktion D, a joint project of the Goethe Institut and Deutsche Welle Radio. The author is Herrad Meese.

Moderator

Hello, welcome to Episode Six of your German language course. To put you back in the picture: Journalists Paula und Philipp are in a picture postcard castle in Bavaria built by King Ludwig II who died in 1886. Mysterious things are happening there. As they investigate, Philipp und Paula have another very weird encounter. In the palace they see a figure wearing a glorious **coat**, a **MANTEL**, lined with white fur.

Paula

Hallo, liebe Hörerinnen und Hörer.

Philipp

Willkommen...

Paula

... bei Radio D.

Philipp

Radio D...

Paula

... die Reportage.

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Radio D – Teil 1

Moderator

Listen now to that encounter. What mantle is the man wearing? And what is it he's claiming?

Szene 1: Im Schloss Neuschwanstein

Paula

Philipp, da, schau mal der **Mantel**.

Philipp

Das ist doch, das ist doch...

Paula

... der Mantel von König Ludwig.

Philipp

Das **ist** König Ludwig.

Paula

Entschuldigung. Entschuldigung:
Wer sind Sie?

Schauspieler

König Ludwig.

Philipp

Wie bitte?

Schauspieler

Ich bin König Ludwig.

Moderator

Philipp and Paula are stunned to see the man wearing the mantle of King Ludwig.

Philipp

Das ist doch, das ist doch...

Paula

... der Mantel von König Ludwig.

Moderator

Many pictures show Ludwig II with a splendid blue coat lined with white fur draped over his shoulder. Confused, Paula asks the man who he is.

Paula

Entschuldigung. Entschuldigung:
Wer sind Sie?

Moderator

Imagine the two reporters' astonishment when they hear the man claim to be King Ludwig.

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Schauspieler

König Ludwig.

Philipp

Wie bitte?

Schauspieler

Ich bin König Ludwig.

Moderator

So here's this man claiming to be a Bavarian king who's known to have died in 1886. It's really weird... It has to be said, though, that to this day it's not certain just how Ludwig II died.

What we do know is that five days before his mysterious death he was forcefully abducted from Neuschwanstein Castle. He was accused of not attending to his royal duties and just squandering money on building palaces for himself. The Bavarian government had doctors declare him insane. He was taken to another castle in Bavaria, near a big lake, the Starnberger See.

Philipp

Radio D...

Paula

... das Hörspiel.

Moderator

And what happened there? Listen to two versions of what **could have** happened. Here's the first.

Szene 2: Am Starnberger See; Todesversion 1

Dr. Gudden

Majestät, wie geht es Ihnen?

König Ludwig

Ach, Doktor Gudden: das Wasser...

Dr. Gudden

Majestät?

Nein! Nein!

Halt Majestät, Halt!

Halt!

Was machen Sie denn?

Halt! Halt!

Hilfe! Hilfe!

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Radio D – Teil 1

Dr. Gudden

Was machen Sie denn?
Halt! Halt!
Hilfe! Hilfe!

Moderator

Now, that's one version of what **might** have happened. His Majesty, the King, is strolling on the lakeshore with his psychiatrist, Dr. Bernhard von Gudden, who is supposed to keep an eye on him. But the depressed king walks into the water and his doctor can't stop him. Both of them drown in the struggle.

Moderator

Well, we won't be looking any more closely into any of the inconsistencies, for example how the two of them could have drowned in such warm, shallow water and why the king's watch stopped an hour and a half before his doctor's did – but they're things that make other people believe the following version: version two. What's happening here?

Szene 3: Am Starnberger See; Todesversion 2

1. Männerstimme

Alles klar?

2. Männerstimme

Psst! Still!

1. Männerstimme

Achtung... jetzt... und...

Moderator

You'll have heard a shot there, so we're obviously dealing with murder. Many royalist Bavarians believe King Ludwig was murdered. And as long as the king's descendants refuse to let the corpse be examined, stories and speculation will continue to abound.

Well, let's leave the mystery now and ask the professor whether at least the language is a bit clearer.

Paula

Und nun kommt – unser Professor.

Ayhan

Radio D...

Paula

... Gespräch über Sprache.

Moderator

Well, Professor, would you describe German a clear language?

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Radio D – Teil 1

Sprecher

Recherchieren – recherchieren – recherchieren

Compu

Recherchieren – recherchieren – recherchieren

Sprecher

Ich bin Compu.
Ich bin bei Radio D.

Sprecherin

Ich bin Redakteurin.

Schauspieler

Ich bin König Ludwig.

Professor

Hello again everyone. Well, I would say that as a language German is certainly clearer than the death of Ludwig II. It's clear, for example, that normally every German sentence contains a verb and a noun or pronoun. Let's concentrate on the verb for now. A verb tells what happens or what is. Compu claims, for example, to be doing research - RE-CHERCHIEREN: that's the infinitive form of the verb in German. That's the form in which dictionaries list verbs.

Professor

Listen to it again and pay particular attention to the ending **-en'**.

Professor

In German, verbs change their form depending, for example, on whether one's saying something about oneself or about somebody else. Listen to how one uses a verb to say something about oneself - for example **who** one is or **where** one is or **what** one is. In those cases the verb is the second word in the sentence.

Moderator

And the personal form of the verb has to go together with the corresponding personal pronoun.

Professor

That's right. If someone is speaking about themselves they have to add the personal pronoun **I** – **ICH**. Let's hear it again.

Moderator

If you're asking a question about a person, you use the interrogative or question word **who** – **WER** – as you already know. But please note in the following the different forms of addressing someone. First the courteous personal pronoun for you – **SIE**.

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Paula

Entschuldigung. Entschuldigung:
Wer sind Sie?

Professor

In the following listen for the pronoun friends would use for you – DU.

Philipp

Wer bist du denn?

Compu

Ich bin Compu.

Moderator

OK, thanks for now Professor.

Ayhan

Wer bist denn du?
Ich bin Compu.
Und wer sind Sie?
Ich bin König Ludwig.
Wer ist denn das?
Das weiß ich nicht.
Ich bin ich.
Das weiß ich.

Moderator

And, listeners, here are the scenes for you once again.

Paula and Philipp spend quite some time in Neuschwanstein Palace. And they come across a figure wearing a splendid fur-lined **coat** or **mantel** of the kind King Ludwig liked and is often pictured in.

Paula

Philipp, da, schau mal der **Mantel**.

Philipp

Das ist doch, das ist doch...

Paula

... der Mantel von König Ludwig.

Philipp

Das **ist** König Ludwig.

Paula

Entschuldigung. Entschuldigung:
Wer sind Sie?

Schauspieler

König Ludwig.

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Philipp

Wie bitte?

Schauspieler

Ich bin König Ludwig.

Moderator

The king's death is a mystery. Here's one version of what could have happened.

Dr. Gudden

Majestät, wie geht es Ihnen?

König Ludwig

Ach, Doktor Gudden: das Wasser ...

Dr. Gudden

Majestät?

Nein! Nein!

Halt Majestät, Halt!

Halt!

Was machen Sie denn?

Halt! Halt!

Hilfe! Hilfe!

Moderator

Or it could have happened like this...

1. Männerstimme

Alles klar?

2. Männerstimme

Psst! Still!

1. Männerstimme

Achtung... jetzt... und...

Moderator

In the next episode we'll be talking less about the death and more about the life of King Ludwig II.

Paula

Liebe Hörerinnen und Hörer, dann bis zum nächsten Mal.

You've been listening to Radio D, a German course of the Goethe Institut and Deutsche Welle Radio.

Ayhan

Und tschüs.

Herrad Meese

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