

Deutsch lernen und unterrichten – Arbeitsmaterialien

Radio D – Teil 1

Episode 13 – Carnival Monday

Not everyone at Radio D is excited about Carnival. Compu's assignment takes the two journalists to the Black Forest, where the Carnival spirit is strong.

In certain regions of Germany, Carnival is celebrated with gusto. In the Radio D office, the traditional party causes a rift. Paula can't share Philipp's enthusiasm and she thinks his witch costume is ridiculous.

To Philipp's delight, their investigation takes them to the Black Forest, where people in witch costumes are stealing cars in the midst of the Carnival madness. The journalists try to do a live program, but to no avail. The witches drag Philipp out of the car and kidnap him.

Word order in German is somewhat less chaotic than Carnival. This episode focuses on the position of the **subject** and the **predicate**.

Manuscript of Episode 13

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

Welcome to Episode Thirteen of your German course with *Radio D*. Today is a very special day: It's **Rosenmontag**, **Rose Monday**. It's the penultimate day of carnival and it's being celebrated in Germany – with varying intensity, depending on which part of the country you're in. We're in Berlin at Radio D, and in Berlin, which is in the northern half of Germany, they're not all that crazy about carnival. But those who feel like it do dress up a bit like Philipp, Radio D journalist, he's put on the mask of a witch – or HEXE – well, you know, he's not all that original, our Philipp....His colleague Paula comes into the office. What's her reaction?

Szene 1: In der Redaktion

Ayhan

Ja, ist ja gut.

Philipp

Helau, helau.

Paula

Hallo, was ist denn mit **dir** los, Philipp?

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Philipp

Ich bin eine Hexe.
Heute bin ich eine Hexe; eine Hexe, hi, hi.

Paula

Oh, das sehe ich. Sehr witzig.

Ayhan

Aber Paula, was ist denn mit dir los?
Heute ist doch Rosenmontag.
Und die Deutschen...

Philipp

... Helau, helau.

Paula

Oje, oje
Radio D
ein Zirkus

Compu

Achtung: Recherche – Recherche
Hexe stiehlt Autos – Hexe stiehlt Autos

Stimme

Ja, ist ja gut.

Philipp

Helau, helau.

Paula

Hallo, was ist denn mit **dir** los, Philipp?

Philipp

Ich bin eine Hexe. Heute bin ich eine Hexe; eine Hexe,
hi, hi.

Paula

Das sehe ich. Sehr witzig.

Ihr Deutsch ist unser Auftrag!

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Moderator

You'll probably have noticed that Paula is more irritated than amused. When Philipp hails her with the carnival greeting HELAU she asks him immediately what's the matter with him.

Moderator

Philipp just giggles and reveals that today he's a witch.

Moderator

Since that's pretty easy to recognise from his mask, Paula says sarcastically: "I can see that. Very witty, ha, ha!"

Moderator

But Ayhan reminds her that today is Rose Monday – ROSENMONTAG. The word is made of two nouns. Listen

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again to Ayhan. Do you understand the first part of the composite word?

Ayhan

Heute ist doch Rosenmontag.

Moderator

The first part of the word describes a flower, the **rose** – **ROSE**; the second part describes a day of the week, **Monday**. But it's not as if it were raining roses this Monday, which would, of course, be very nice. No, the first word comes from the old verb **ROSEN**, that used to be used in the Rhineland region, where they have always celebrated carnival in a big way.

And **ROSEN**, which is a word that no longer actually exists as a verb means, well, to rave, to gallivant, to frolic and let your hair down and do crazy things which is just the way many people actually are in carnival.

Ayhan

Aber Paula, was ist denn mit dir los?
Heute ist doch Rosenmontag.
Und die Deutschen ... Helau, helau.

Moderator

But Ayhan doesn't get to explain any more about all the things that Germans get up to on this day in his view because Philipp interrupts him and Paula says, she feels like she's in a circus.

Paula

Oje, oje – Radio D – ein Zirkus

Moderator

Sounds like it's just as well that Compu has a new assignment for the journalists. Listen for that assignment again. This is about the meaning of the verb. What does the witch do with the cars? What's your guess? Remember, it's carnival.

Compu

Achtung: Recherche – Recherche
Hexe stiehlt Autos – Hexe stiehlt Autos

Moderator

Maybe you thought the witch would spray colourful graffiti onto cars, or drape paper snakes across them – no, that's not it. This witch is exploiting the carnival fancy dress as to **steal** cars.

Philipp and Paula set out for the Black Forest region in southwest Germany. Eighteen cars have already been stolen there. We're with these two reporters live on their expedition right into the thick of carnival.

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Paula

Hallo, liebe Hörerinnen und Hörer.

Philipp

Willkommen...

Paula

... bei Radio D.

Philipp

Radio D...

Paula

... heute live.

Moderator

Philipp and Paula have arrived at their destination – but they are not very masked. Paula managed to persuade Philipp to take off his witch's mask; she thought he looked pretty silly in it.

Have a listen now to what happens to Philipp and why he's looking for his witch's mask.

Szene 2: Ankunft auf dem Marktplatz

Paula

Ja, hallo. Wir sind hier mitten im Karneval.

Philipp

Helau, helau.

Paula

Wir fahren jetzt noch weiter, aber...

... hier sind sehr viele Menschen.

Philipp

Lauter Hexen.

Hexengesang

Erst eins, dann zwei,
dann drei, dann vier,
dann stehn die Hexen vor der Tür.
Sie rütteln dich, sie schütteln dich,
sie kommen und fallen über dich.

Stimme

Hey, Mann. Los. Komm raus.

Philipp

Halt, ich bin doch auch eine Hexe.
Halt. Hilfe, Paula!
Meine Maske! Wo ist meine Hexenmaske?

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Philipp

Lauter Hexen.

Philipp

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Philipp

Meine Maske! Wo ist meine Hexenmaske?

Paula

Ja, hallo. Wir sind hier mitten im Karneval.

Paula

Wir fahren jetzt noch weiter, aber...
... hier sind sehr viele Menschen.

Paula

Und nun kommt – unser Professor.

Ayhan

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Moderator

Paula, Paula, what's going on? Paula, can you hear me? We seem to have got cut off in the hubbub. Well, that gives us a chance to go over what's just happened. Well, first Philipp is still joking about being surrounded by witches.

Moderator

Oh dear, if only Philipp hadn't listened to Paula and kept his witch's mask on! Then at least he could have claimed more credibly that he's a witch, too or at least that's what he thinks.

Moderator

Philipp looks desperately for his witch's mask, but he can't find it.

Moderator

So, the two of them are there **in the thick of the carnival** – which, I think, you could hear pretty clearly.

Moderator

But then it obviously got harder and harder to keep on driving the car because there was so many people on the roads – including witches.

Moderator

And now the witches have surrounded the car and pulled Philipp out. What are they doing with him? Well, we'll just have to wait and find out because first, here's our professor.

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Paula

... Gespräch über Sprache.

Moderator

Well, Professor, things were a bit chaotic at Radio D today. Is the German sentence structure just as chaotic?

Professor

No, fortunately it isn't. I certainly can't say that. There's a certain order to the sentence **parts**. That's what I'd like to address today – and I repeat, this is about **parts** of sentences, not single words.

Moderator

Shall we begin with the verbs/the predicate?

Professor

That's a good idea. Listeners, in the following examples, please, pay attention only to the forms of the verbs BIN and FAHREN. In the **declarative sentence** the verbs come in second place.

Sprecherin

Ich bin eine Hexe.

Wir fahren weiter.

Moderator

And what's in first place in the sentence?

Professor

Normally the nominative complement, the subject, comes first – in the examples the pronouns ICH and WIR.

Sprecherin

Ich bin eine Hexe.

Wir fahren weiter.

Moderator

And what exactly do you mean by normally?

Professor

It's always correct to have the subject start the sentence. But especially in spoken language you'll often hear something else in first place. Listen to the two possibilities.

Sprecher

Ich bin heute eine Hexe.

Heute bin ich eine Hexe.

Moderator

So, which sentence parts can be put at the start of the sentence?

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Paula

Wir sind hier mitten im Karneval.
Hier sind sehr viele Menschen.

Sprecher

Das sehe ich.

Paula

Das sehe ich. Sehr witzig.

Stimme

Ja, ist ja gut.

Philipp

Helau, helau.

Paula

Hallo, was ist denn mit **dir** los, Philipp?

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Professor

That's often information about things like time – **today**, say in German – **HEUTE** – like you've just heard. It could also be information about a place. Let's hear an example of that with **here** – **HIER**.

Moderator

But complements can also be put at the start of a sentence, right?

Professor

Yes, indeed we've heard that a lot with the accusative complement/the accusative object, for example **DAS**.

Professor

Let me sum up. In the declarative sentence the verb always comes second.

Moderator

OK, Professor, thanks a lot for that.

Professor

It was my pleasure.

Moderator

Here are those two scenes again.

In the first scene Philipp has put on a witch's mask because it's carnival.

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Compu

Achtung: Recherche – Recherche
Hexe stiehlt Autos – Hexe stiehlt Autos

Moderator

Philipp and Paula drive to a small town in southwest Germany where a witch is stealing cars.

Paula

Ja, hallo. Wir sind hier mitten im Karneval.

Philipp

Helau, helau.

Paula

Wir fahren jetzt noch weiter, aber...

... hier sind sehr viele Menschen.

Philipp

Lauter Hexen.

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Erst eins, dann zwei,
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Stimme

Hey, Mann. Los. Komm raus.

Philipp

Halt, ich bin doch auch eine Hexe.
Halt. Hilfe, Paula!
Meine Maske! Wo ist meine Hexenmaske? Hilfe!

Moderator

And in the next episode you'll hear what happens to Philipp and to our poor abandoned Paula.

Paula

Liebe Hörerinnen und Hörer, bis zum nächsten Mal.

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Ayhan
Helau.

Herrad Meese