

Deutsch lernen und unterrichten – Arbeitsmaterialien

Uwe From Outer Space

Episode 04: Uwe and the Reporter

One thing Uwe has definitely learnt: Football reporters use a language that almost sounds like linguistic philosophy. Their slogan: don't think too much, but know how to express properly what you are thinking.

"The longer a match lasts, the less time there is" – it is phrases like these that have given German football reporters the reputation of being linguistic geniuses. Susi and Uwe meet one of them in a restaurant. And special agent Uwe is especially surprised to see that Germans can actually show their emotions! Uwe starts to understand that it is partly because of the way the game is reported to the fans, that Germans have declared football to be "the world's nicest insignificance".

Manuscript of the Episode

Narrator

It's the year 2006. On a small planet in the Milky Way – Planet Earth – everyone is going crazy about the Football World Cup. And the population on Penalta 8 in system 4-3-3 wants to find out more about this strange phenomenon. So they send someone to investigate – special agent Uwe.

Uwe

"Hello!"

Narrator

And Uwe has Susi by his side to help him.

Susi

"Hello!"

Narrator

Susi from the OC tells Uwe everything there is to know about football.

Uwe

"He's late... but that might be him over there, that little man with the side parting..."

Susi

"No, that's ,big' Berti Vogts. He used to be one of Germany's best defenders... now, why don't you order some food?"

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Uwe

"I don't know... Well, it says in my intergalactic guide that food in Germany is almost as bad as the way the defenders' play football..."

Narrator

...which is of course not true, as Susi patiently explained to Uwe. There are just as many good restaurants here in Germany as anywhere else in Europe.

Uwe

"Wow! – That must be him! Look, he's ordering 'Currywurst' and French fries..."

Narrator

...which is nothing but animal intestine stuffed with minced pork and served with hot tomato sauce and fried potato slices.

Susi

"Wow, that guy's a football reporter, quite a famous one actually. He once asked on TV: 'Do statistics actually tell the truth? Because if you go by statistics, every fourth man is Chinese, but there are no Chinese players here'."

Uwe

"Not a very clever thing to say."

Susi

"There are probably worse things you can say."

Narrator

Football reporters in Germany are very eloquent and inventive in the language they use – they're like 'linguistic jugglers'. Some of the things they've said have become classics that people still use today - like 'the longer the match lasts, the less time there's left'. Or 'if you throw him into cold water now, he might burn his fingers'.

Susi

"Have you ever heard about the most famous football commentary? Everyone here in Germany knows it – it was in 1954 when Germany surprisingly won the World Cup..."

Narrator

Yes, it's something the Germans love listening to over and over again ... some people would even say it was the moment that the Federal Republic of Germany really came into being...

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Susi

“...I have it on CD here...”

Uwe

“I never knew the Germans could show their emotions that way ...”

Reporter

“I'd like to apologise for the delay, but I can hardly believe what's just happened. The team had hardly moved from their own goal for 80 minutes, hardly had any time to breathe at all, and then all of a sudden this defence – and now it's all ours.”

Uwe

“... Ehm...”

Susi

“... Errrr...”

Reporter

“...They should have moved around the sides of the pitch, but instead they kept running straight through the middle.”

Uwe

“Well, you know, I'm from Penalta and there...”

Reporter

“We did have one penalty shot, but the guy just slammed the ball against the posts...”

Susi

“You mean: the goal posts.”

Reporter

“Exactly.”

Uwe

“But why didn't you say so then?”

Narrator

Suddenly the reporter realised...he realised that Uwe was one of the few who needed to have obvious expressions explained to him. Uwe needed to be told that a ‚one-to-two‘ didn't mean the final match score, but that it's a description of a quick pass between two forwards. That hitting a ‚long cross‘ means a high pass into the penalty area and that a ‚wall‘ is when team players guard their own goal from a free kick...

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Uwe

“...the Berlin Wall...?”

Reporter

“The wall has disappeared in people’s minds, but not in the penalty areas...”

Susi

“See, Uwe, there *is* a philosopher hiding in every reporter. Socrates would be a football reporter if he were alive today and Kant would have been a coach, who knows? He would illustrate the categorical imperative by saying: ‘Play flat, win high’.”

Narrator

„Play flat, win high“ – now that’s something he could teach his team.

Reporter

„Football is always exciting because nobody knows what the final score will be until the last seconds“

Uwe

“Was it also a football philosopher who said that?”

Susi

“Yes, our most famous one: Sepp Herberger. Germany’s legendary football coach after the war. We’ll talk about him tomorrow – and about the old and the new systems...”

Uwe

“Communism and capitalism?”

Susi

“No, the Schalke spin, the Swiss bar and four-man-chains – and no, they’re not pieces of jewellery!...”

Uwe

“I know that one – that’s the one with the ‘dissolved sweeper’.”

Susi

“You know, you’ve learnt so much since you’ve been here with me, really!”

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