

Deutsch lernen und unterrichten – Arbeitsmaterialien

Uwe From Outer Space

Episode 02: Uwe at the Hotel

Football lingo: in German football speak, teams are ‚scrambled‘, players ‚kill‘ their opponents, and ‚bullets‘ are shot across the pitch....it sounds violent, but it is a very normal part of every football match.

Over breakfast in the hotel, Uwe is introduced to some of Germany’s culinary delights. But he learns much more here than breakfast being the most important meal of the day. While Uwe gorges himself on the breakfast buffet, Susi meets Dieter, a hotel guest from Hamburg. The two football experts have a lively discussion about football speak. Listening to their conversation, Uwe is fascinated to hear about the vast variety of expressions that exist. This is something he definitely needs to report back to Penalta!

Manuscript of the Episode

Narrator

It is 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.

Narrator

The breakfast room in the hotel was packed. Everyone was there – except for one person.

Susi

“Excuse me. Have you seen a slightly confused-looking gentleman?”

Ihr Deutsch ist unser Auftrag!

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Uwe From Outer Space

Narrator

Suddenly Susi saw him. Uwe was standing at the buffet and was staring at the plates with disbelief. He had never seen such a huge selection of delicious food before: ham from the Black Forest, North Frisian goats cheese, Allgaeu mountain cheese...

Dieter

"All that's missing is fish. Hello, my name is Dieter, I'm from Hamburg."

Uwe

"And I'm Uwe from Penalta 8 and..."

Dieter

"...Uwe? Like 'Uns Uwe' – 'our Uwe'..."

Uwe

"Well, um..."

Dieter

"Uwe Seeler, THE German football star of the 1960s. Man, those were the days! Back then, national team players weren't spoilt millionaires like today... but even at that time, the Italians tried to lure our boys away to their team. But 'our Uwe', you see, he stayed with us, he wouldn't leave Hamburg's football team. He wasn't very tall, just 1.69 meter, but he was really powerful, and he scored most goals with his head. The opponents had a really hard time trying to keep with him and mark him..."

Narrator

Here Susi had to come in. She had to explain to Uwe that when you mark someone in a football match, the defender has to stand right by the other team's player. If the defender isn't right up close to his opponent, he's either too slow or he is covering the entire space and not just his opponent. But by doing this, he risks the other team scoring a goal... clear?

Dieter

"So one guy narrows the space, and the other guy moves in on the opponent. And wins the duel, right?"

Uwe

"But that sounds like war..."

Dieter

"Yes, that's the way the game is!! Or would you just duck and run away when bombs are falling around you, or if someone kicks the ball really hard at you?"

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Uwe

“...Err, no, I guess not...”

Dieter

“You see! Football pitches are the battlefields of our times... So you need some strong fighting terminology...”

Susi

“Objection! The language of football is influenced by many different aspects of life...”

Uwe

“...Life is good...”

Susi

...like theatre for example, my dear Dieter: When Hamburg loses a home game, it's a big 'drama', isn't it? Günther Netzer, the football commentator, was a 'first class director'. And don't forget the 'magician' in front of the goal...”

Uwe

“And the coach who drew an unknown player 'out of the hat'. I saw that on the TV yesterday when I watched a friendly match: a debutant was brought on as a substitute...”

Dieter

“Yes, I saw that match, too. But it was a flop! The defender got a yellow card in no time at all, and then even a red.. Yep, he really drew the short end of the stick there, or as we say in German 'he drew the arse card'!”

Susi

“Dieter!”

Dieter

“My dear Susi, it's only called that because the referee used to carry the warning card in his back pocket. So you can see the influence football has had on our language. Just think of the sweeper! If he's really good, then he's like the team's core strength and backbone. In German, he'd be called the team's central pole – der 'ruhende Pol'.”

Susi

“My dear Dieter, der 'ruhende Pol' – that's a Schiller expression, but then you've probably never heard of him...”

Dieter

“Nope, who does he play for?”

Ihr Deutsch ist unser Auftrag!

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Susi

"In the German League of Literature."

Dieter

"I've only ever read one book about football: The Penalty Shoot-out and the Goal Keepers' Fear."

Uwe

"I know that one! It's a classic on Penalta..."

Susi

"No, it's true that football takes its expressions from other fields. Just think of a really weak team that always loses – in Germany, we'd call them a 'group of cucumbers'..."

Uwe

"...and 'banana shots' get their name because they curl round and then fly smoothly into the penalty area where they're impossible for the defenders to reach..."

Susi

"OK, Uwe, can we go now? We wanted to go shopping in town, remember... You need to buy something to take back home with you... for your wife..."

Uwe

"We don't have anything like that on Penalta..."

Narrator

But Susi, who had been assigned to look after Uwe by the Organising Committee, was already holding his hand, ready to take him on a journey into the mysteries of merchandising... nirvana for disciples of the all-encompassing game of football.