

Deutsch lernen und unterrichten – Arbeitsmaterialien

Radio D – Teil 2

Episode 28 – Trabbi Versus Porsche

Paula and Philipp's next assignment takes them to a small village in Brandenburg. A very special kind of race is supposed to take place here. Of course the two reporters from Radio D could not miss out on that.

An unusual race draws Paula and Philipp to the countryside. Initially it doesn't seem like much is going on. But once they arrive in Grünheide in Brandenburg it becomes very interesting. Lots of people are bustling towards the local bar. The driver of a Trabant, a popular East German car, claims his car goes faster than a Porsche.

For the professor the race is a good opportunity to take another close look at **comparative and superlative forms of adjectives**. Which car is fast, which is faster than the other, and which is the fastest altogether?

Manuscript of Episode 28

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

Moderator

Hello everyone, and welcome to Episode 28 of your German language course, Radio D. Do you remember the somewhat vague message that Compu received by e-mail? Have another listen.

Compu

Trabbi gegen Porsche

Moderator

That sounds strange, doesn't it? A sports car racing against a normal car? Is that a joke? The TRABBI was the Volkswagen of the GDR and its proper name was TRABANT.

GDR – in German DDR - is the abbreviation for German Democratic Republic – DEUTSCHE DEMOKRATISCHE REPUBLIK. The GDR was a socialist state that was founded after the Second World War and the division of Germany. Until Germany was reunited in 1990, there were two German states: a capitalist one, the Federal Republic of Germany or FRG – it's called in German BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND, or BRD, and a socialist one, the GDR. The two states were also often called West Germany and East Germany. West Germany was the Federal Republic, and East Germany was the German Democratic Republic.

Oh, I think Compu wants to say something else.

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Compu

Trabbi gegen Porsche
Wettrennen in Grünheide

Moderator

So now we also know the place where the race – WETT-TRENNEN – is to take place: in Grünheide. Philipp and Paula have set off to go there. We're going to listen to them while they are on their way. What do you find out about Grünheide? Listen to the noises, which will give you clues.

Szene 1: Ankunft in Grünheide

Paula

Sag mal, wo sind wir hier eigentlich?

Philipp

Hast du das Ortschild nicht gesehen? Wir sind in Grünheide.

Paula

Hier ist ja überhaupt nichts los.
Mach doch mal das Radio an.

Auch nicht viel besser.

Wo sind die Menschen?

Philipp

Arbeiten, schlafen, fernsehen – und die Männer sind in der Kneipe.

Paula

Gibt es hier überhaupt eine Kneipe?

Philipp

Oh ja! Guck mal da:
eine Kneipe und – endlich Menschen!

Paula

Da ist ja wohl was los.
Halt mal an.

Moderator

Did you hear the wind in the trees? And the occasional neighing of horses? So, Grünheide is in the country. It's a small village between Berlin and Frankfurt on the Oder. Paula seems to have had a somewhat different idea of what the place would be like, because she complains that there's nothing going on there.

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Paula

Hier ist ja überhaupt nichts los.

Moderator

Above all, she doesn't see any people in the streets.

Paula

Wo sind die Menschen?

Moderator

Philipp can imagine where the people are and what they are doing: working, sleeping, watching TV ...

Philipp

Arbeiten, schlafen, fernsehen ...

Moderator

And Philipp is sure the men are in the KNEIPE.

Philipp

– und die Männer sind in der Kneipe.

Moderator

Can you guess what a KNEIPE is? It's a pub or bar where people meet with friends or neighbours to have a drink and talk in relaxed surroundings. But Paula doubts whether there's a pub in the village at all – it all seems so quiet and lonely to her.

Paula

Gibt es hier überhaupt eine Kneipe?

Moderator

Shortly afterwards, Philipp does find a pub.

Philipp

Oh ja! Guck mal da:
eine Kneipe und – endlich Menschen!

Moderator

Paula is relieved to see that there is something going on in the village after all, and she asks Philipp to stop.

Paula

Da ist ja wohl was los.
Halt mal an.

Moderator

Philipp stops the car and the two of them get out. In the car park in front of the pub there are two cars – a Porsche and a Trabbi. And standing around them is a group of people. Listen now to the conversation with the village residents.

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Paula

Hallo, liebe Hörerinnen und Hörer.

Philipp

Willkommen ...

Paula

... bei Radio D.

Philipp

Radio D ...

Paula

... die Reportage.

Moderator

Listen very carefully to the woman's voice. What is she claiming?

Szene 2: Auf dem Parkplatz in Grünheide

Philipp und Paula

Guten Abend.

Frauenstimme

Guten Abend.

Philipp

Ein Porsche.

Paula

Also sind wir hier richtig.

Philipp

Einen Porsche sieht man hier sicher nicht oft.

Mann 1

Der ist nicht schlecht.

Philipp

Aber der Trabbi sieht auch gut aus.

Mann 1

Hey! Vorsicht!

Mann 2

Der sieht nicht nur gut aus,
der ist auch schnell – sehr schnell sogar.

Mann 1

Schneller als ein Porsche.

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Paula

Männer und Technik!

Philipp, dein Auto ist sicher am schnellsten!

Frauenstimme

Oh ne, glauben Sie das mal ja nicht.

Der Trabbi ist am schnellsten. Wetten wir?

Männerstimmen

Stimmt!

Klar!

Wetten, dass?

Moderator

Perhaps you still remembered the word WETTRENNEN? Then you'll probably also have understood that everyone is talking about a bet – WETTE. The woman bets that the Trabbi is the fastest.

Frauenstimme

Der Trabbi ist am schnellsten. Wetten wir?

Moderator

This bet is the woman's reaction to Paula's statement that Philipp's car is the fastest.

Paula

Philipp, dein Auto ist sicher am schnellsten!

Moderator

But actually Paula was being very ironic. She was probably a bit annoyed about the previous conversation about cars.

Listen to it again more closely. To get into the conversation with the village residents, Philipp says that a Porsche probably wouldn't often be seen in the small village.

Philipp

Einen Porsche sieht man hier sicher nicht oft.

Moderator

The reaction to this is pretty low-key: "It's not bad."

Mann 1

Der ist nicht schlecht.

Moderator

Philipp turns his attention to the TRABBI, which is parked next to the Porsche. The Trabbi has unusually wide tyres, almost like a racing car, so Philipp admires it as well: "But the Trabbi looks good too."

Philipp

Aber der Trabbi sieht auch gut aus.

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Mann 2

Der sieht nicht nur gut aus,
der ist auch schnell – sehr schnell sogar.

Mann 1

Schneller als ein Porsche.

Frauenstimme

Oh ne, glauben Sie det mal ja nicht.
Der Trabbi ist am schnellsten. Wetten wir?

Szene 3: In der Redaktion

Josefine

Hier ist ja gar nichts los. Und alles ist sauber.

Waren Philipp und Paula gar nicht hier?

Compu

Sie sind noch in Grünheide.

Josefine

Und was machen sie da?

Compu

Ich glaube, sie wetten:
Trabbi gegen Porsche.

Josefine

So was Blödes! Der Porsche ist in jedem Fall schneller.
Wetten wir?

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Moderator

Another man adds that the Trabbi is also very fast.

Moderator

To highlight this positive quality of the TRABBI, the man emphasises that the TRABBI is faster than a Porsche.

Moderator

Anyway, Paula isn't exactly thrilled about this rivalry. She says ironically that Philipp's car is sure to be the fastest. A woman from the village corrects her straight away. The woman, who speaks dialect, says that Paula shouldn't be so sure, and suggests a bet.

Moderator

And some of the men join in with her suggestion. Unfortunately, at the moment we can't follow what happens next. We want to hear what is going on in the offices of Radio D. It is now evening and Josefine has arrived at Radio D. She hears about the possible bet and wants to join in. How does Eulalia react to this?

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Eulalia

Vorsicht! Vorsicht! Man weiß nie genau.
Ich kenne da eine Geschichte ...

Josefine

So was Blödes!
Der Porsche ist in jedem Fall schneller.
Wetten wir?

Eulalia

Vorsicht! Vorsicht!
Man weiß nie genau.

Eulalia

Ich kenne da eine Geschichte ...

Paula

Und nun kommt – unser Professor.

Philipp

Radio D ...

Paula

... Gespräch über Sprache.

Moderator

You are sure to have heard that Josefine would like to bet that a Porsche is definitely faster.

Moderator

Eulalia warns her to be careful, because you never really know for sure.

Moderator

And without explaining herself, she hints that she knows a story ...

Moderator

At the moment I don't know what story Eulalia means, but I have some time to think about it, because here comes our professor.

Professor

Hello, everybody. At least I can explain today's story to you.

Moderator

Well, that's not hard – it was about a bet.

Professor

But I would like to concentrate on what's interesting here language-wise: the degrees of comparison of adjectives. Adjectives have a basic form. Listen to an example with the adjective SCHNELL.

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Radio D – Teil 2

Sprecher

schnell – schnell

Mann 2

Der sieht nicht nur gut aus,
der ist auch schnell – sehr schnell sogar.

Moderator

But this story is about who is faster.

Professor

Yes – and this comparison is expressed in German by using an ending. Listen to an example and pay attention to the ending of the adjective.

Sprecher

schnell

Sprecherin

schneller – schneller

Moderator

So the comparative ending of the adjective is always *-er*.

Josefine

Der Porsche ist in jedem Fall schneller.

Professor

Right. And when making a comparison, you can of course always say what you are comparing something with. Then the comparative is followed by the word *ALS*.

Sprecher

schneller

Sprecherin

schneller als
schneller als ein Porsche

Moderator

The listeners have heard another degree of comparison as well.

Mann 1

Schneller als ein Porsche.

Professor

Yes, they heard one possible form of the superlative. Listen to an example and pay attention to the ending of the adjective.

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Sprecher
schnell

Sprecherin
am schnellsten
am schnellsten

Frauenstimme
Der Trabbi ist am schnellsten. Wetten wir?

Paula
Philipp, dein Auto ist sicher am schnellsten!

Paula
Bis zum nächsten Mal, liebe Hörerinnen und Hörer.

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

Philipp
Und tschüs.

Moderator
So the ending of the adjective in the superlative after *AM* is always S-T-E-N. **-STEN.**

Professor
Yes, that's right: after *AM* the adjective is in the superlative degree. It is not followed by a noun!

Moderator
Yes, then thank you very much, Professor.

In the next episode, you can hear whether Philipp or Paula will join in the strange bet.

Herrad Meese

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