**Episode 092 – Grammar**

**The past perfect**

The past perfect is a grammatical tense to express the "pre-past". It is used to denote an occurrence that took place even further in the past than another event that also happened in the past.

**Pre-past**

\[ \text{Du hastest keine Ausbildung gemacht,} \]  
\[ (= \text{Anna’s mother gave Anna up for adoption because she hadn’t completed any vocational training previously.}) \]

**Past**

\[ \text{und deswegen hast du mich zur Adoption freigegeben.} \]

**Pre-past**

\[ \text{Als der Pfleger ins Zimmer kam,} \]
\[ (= \text{Harry had made the bed before the caregiver came into the room.}) \]

\[ \text{hatte Harry schon das Bett gemacht.} \]

The past perfect is formed like the present perfect with the helping verbs "haben" or "sein" and a past participle. But for the past perfect, the helping verbs are conjugated in the simple past tense. The past participle remains unchanged. In a typical declarative sentence, the conjugated verb takes the second position and the past participle goes to the end of the sentence.

Examples:

*Harry hatte auf Anna gewartet.*  
*Harry war mit Anna ins Seniorenheim gefahren.*
Harry – gefangen in der Zeit
Begleitmaterialien

Overview of the past tenses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simple past</th>
<th>Present perfect</th>
<th>Past perfect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>