

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

2. Expressing dates

Use ordinal numbers to express the date. First you name the day, then the month, then the year. Days are always masculine, meaning they are preceded by a masculine definite article. In written German, the day and year are always given in numerals.

Examples:

Heute ist **der 31. April**. = spoken as: **der einunddreißigste April**

Mein Geburtstag ist **der 17. März 1950**. = spoken as: **der siebzehnte März neunzehnhundertfünfzig**

If you want to mention the day of the week, it precedes the date and is separated by a comma.

Example:

Heute ist **Mittwoch, der 31. April** = spoken as: **Mittwoch, der einunddreißigste April**

More:

The months can be referred to by their names or as ordinal numbers in written and spoken German. January is the first month of the year, February is the 2nd, and so on. Since this is much shorter to write, you'll see it often in business correspondence and e-mails.

Example:

der 31.4. = spoken as: **der einunddreißigste Vierte**