

## Episode 053 – Grammar

### 1. The prepositions "bis" and "durch" to describe direction

Prepositions connect words and groups of words together. They express the relation between living beings, things or contexts.

To describe how to get somewhere, you need to use location prepositions, in other words, prepositions that indicate spatial relations, such as the location of a place or the direction. These prepositions answer the questions "Wo?" (where?), "Woher?" (from where?) or "Wohin?" (to where?).

Examples:

*Fahren Sie die Straße geradeaus **bis zur** Tankstelle.*

*Biegen Sie links ab, und fahren Sie dann **durch** den Tunnel.*

"bis" is a preposition that indicates the end of a movement. When used as a location preposition, "bis" is special because it can only stand on its own in conjunction with locations that don't require an article, for example the name of a place.

Examples:

*Wir fahren nicht **bis** Hamburg, wir steigen in Hannover aus.*

*oder: Wir fahren nicht **bis nach** Hamburg.*

When "bis" precedes other nouns, it needs another preposition. The second preposition governs the case.

Examples:

*Fahren Sie **bis zur** Tankstelle. (Drive to the gas station. / Dative)*

*Mit dir fahre ich **bis ans** Ende der Welt. (With you I'd travel to the end of the world. / Accusative)*

# Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

"durch" is a preposition that describes a movement that involves crossing or passing through something. It always requires the accusative case.

Examples:

*Fahren Sie **durch** den Tunnel. (Drive through the tunnel.)*

***Durch** diese Tür kommen Sie ins Aufnahmestudio. (Go through that door to get to the recording studio.)*

*Harry geht **durch** den Park ans Rheinufer. (Harry walked through the park to the shore of the Rhine.)*

**More:**

## Contractions of prepositions and articles

Some prepositions can be merged with the definite articles they precede to form a contraction.

### Preposition + article

**zu + der** (Dative)

**an + das** (Accusative)

### Contraction

**zur**

**ans**

### Example

*Fahren Sie **bis zur** (zu der) Tankstelle.*

*Mit dir fahre ich **bis ans** (an das) Ende der Welt.*

Here is a chart of possible contradictions:

Dative		Accusative
Masculine + Neuter	Feminine	Neuter
<i>an dem → am</i>		<i>an das → ans</i>
<i>in dem → im</i>		<i>in das → ins</i>
<i>bei dem → beim</i>		<i>auf das → aufs</i> (gesprochene Sprache)

# Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

<i>von dem</i> → <i>vom</i>		<i>durch das</i> → <i>durchs</i> (informal speech)
<i>zu dem</i> → <i>zum</i>	<i>zu der</i> → <i>zur</i>	<i>für das</i> → <i>fürs</i> (informal speech)
<i>hinter dem</i> → <i>hinterm</i> (informal speech)		<i>hinter das</i> → <i>hinters</i> (informal speech)
<i>über dem</i> → <i>überm</i> (informal speech)		<i>über das</i> → <i>übers</i> (informal speech)
<i>unter dem</i> → <i>unterm</i> (informal speech)		<i>unter das</i> → <i>unters</i> (informal speech)
<i>vor dem</i> → <i>vorm</i> (informal speech)		<i>vor das</i> → <i>vors</i> (informal speech)