

# Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

## Episode 025 – Grammar

### 1. Placement of the subject in a sentence

In a simple declarative sentence in German, the subject is often placed at the beginning of the sentence:

Subject	Conjugated verb	Object	
<b>Sie</b>	<i>müssen</i>	<i>den Rhein</i>	<i>unbedingt sehen.</i>

You can emphasize other information by placing it first instead. In that case, the subject comes after the conjugated verb:

Object	Conjugated Verb	Subject	
<b>Den Rhein</b>	<i>müssen</i>	<b>Sie</b>	<i>unbedingt sehen.</i>
<b>Das</b>	<i>weiß</i>	<b>ich</b>	<i>nicht so genau.</i>

Adverb	Conjugated Verb	Subject	Object
<b>Heute</b>	<i>gibt</i>	<b>es</b>	<i>frische Brötchen.</i>

For questions, the subject also follows the conjugated verb:

Question word	Conjugated Verb	Subject	Object
<i>Wo</i>	<i>Möchtest</i>	<b>du</b>	<i>einen Kaffee?</i>
	<i>ist</i>	<b>Julia?</b>	

## 2. Modal particles

Modal particles are words that don't have just one clear-cut and specific dictionary definition. But they play a very important part in the meaning of a sentence. They're predominantly used in spoken language (discourse particles). They convey additional meaning and signalize the speaker's point of view of what is being said. Some of the most common modal particles are "doch", "denn" and "eigentlich".

Modal particles don't refer to a particular part of the sentence, but instead to the sentence as a whole. Their meaning depends very much on the context.

Examples:

*Kommt **doch** rein, Kinder. (freundliche Aufforderung)*

*Wo ist **denn** Julia? (Erstaunen)*

*Wo waren Sie **denn** schon? (Interesse)*

*Ich habe **eigentlich** erst Ende der Woche mit euch gerechnet. (Erstaunen)*

*Nach Dresden müssen die beiden **eigentlich** auch noch fahren. (Idee)*