Episode 046 – Grammar

1. **The future tense**

   The future is a grammatical tense that can be used to talk about events that will occur in the future.

   It is a compound tense that combines the helping verb "werden" and the infinitive. The word "werden" is conjugated in the present tense. The infinitive doesn't change its form and goes to the end of the sentence.

   Examples:
   Das Experiment findet gerade statt. (present)
   *Das Experiment **wird** heute Abend **stattfinden**.* (future)

   Die Naturkatastrophen nehmen zu. (present)
   *Die Naturkatastrophen **werden** in Zukunft **zunehmen**.* (future)

   Conjugation of "werden"
   "werden" is an irregular verb. Pay particular attention to the verb stem and the endings in the 2nd and 3rd person singular:

		werden	
Singular	ich	werde	die Umwelt schützen.
	du	wirst	die Umwelt schützen.
	er/sie/es	wird	die Umwelt schützen.
Plural	wir	werden	die Umwelt schützen.
	ihr	werdet	die Umwelt schützen.
	sie	werden	die Umwelt schützen.

Using the future tense
The future tense is often used to express expectations, plans and intentions. It is also used to make predictions. For predictions, you'll often hear it accompanied by adverbs like "wohl" (well), "wahrscheinlich" (probably) or "bestimmt" (surely).

Examples:
*Wir **werden** das Experiment **verhindern**. (intention)*
*Dr. Zweistein **wird** wohl beim Experiment dabei **sein**. (supposition)*

2. **Using the present tense to describe the future**

The present is a grammatical tense used mainly to talk about events taking place now, but in German it can also be used to talk about the future. Usually this requires a reference to time to make that clear.

Examples:
*Das Experiment **findet** heute Abend **statt***.
*Ich **fahre** morgen nach München*.
*Was **machst** du nach der Arbeit?*
*Achtung, die Sendung **fängt** gleich **an***.

It's so common in German to use the present tense to talk about the future that you hardly ever need to use the future tense.