

Episode 073 – Grammar

The placement of reflexive pronouns in a sentence

The German reflexive pronoun "sich" can appear in different parts of a sentence. Usually it's close to the beginning, but in a main clause it follows the conjugated verb.

If the subject comes first in a sentence, the reflexive pronoun directly follows the conjugated verb.

Example:

*Max hat **sich** in die Hose gemacht.*

If the subject comes after the verb, then the reflexive pronoun can be placed either after the subject or the verb.

Example:

*Gestern hat **sich** Max in die Hose gemacht.*

*Gestern hat Max **sich** in die Hose gemacht.*

Note:

If the subject is a personal pronoun, then the reflexive verb must come after the subject!

Examples:

*Gestern hat **er** sich in die Hose gemacht.*

In a dependent clause, the reflexive verb usually appears right after the conjugation. But it can also follow the subject.

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

Examples:

*Harry weiß, dass **sich** **Max** in die Hose gemacht hat.*

*Harry weiß, dass **Max** **sich** in die Hose gemacht hat.*

Note:

In a dependent clause, the reflexive verb usually appears right after the conjugation. But it can also follow the subject.

Examples:

*Harry weiß, dass **er** **sich** in die Hose gemacht hat.*