

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

Episode 054 – Grammar

1. Verbs with fixed prepositions: question words with "wo(r)"

Prepositions connect words and groups of words together. They express the relation between living beings, things or contexts. Verbs with fixed prepositions, however, connect the verb with an object. So in this case, the prepositions don't provide a context for time or location, but instead, are used idiomatically with the verb. Sometimes they can even change the meaning of the verb.

	Verb	Prepositional object
Ich	freue mich	über das Geschenk. (= I received the present and I'm glad about it.)
Ich	freue mich	auf das Geschenk. (= I have not received the present yet but I am looking forward to it.)

Question words with "wo(r)" + preposition

To inquire about the prepositional object, you say:

"wo" + preposition

Ich **träume** **von** einer eigenen Familie.

– **Wovon** träumst du?

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

If the preposition begins with a vowel:

"wo + r" + preposition

*Erinnerst du dich **an** unseren ersten Kuss?*

– ***Woran** soll ich mich erinnern?*

*Ich muss **über** etwas **sprechen**.*

– ***Worüber** möchtest du sprechen?*

More:

When asking about living beings, you use the preposition + "wen" or "wem". The preposition determines the case of the question word.

Examples:

*Ich **träume von** Julia – **Von wem** träumst du?*

*Erinnerst du dich **an** Nick? – **An wen** soll ich mich erinnern?*

*Ich muss **über** den Pinguin **sprechen**. – **Über wen** möchtest du sprechen?*

2. Verbs with fixed prepositions: prepositional adverbs with "da(r)"

Prepositions connect words and groups of words together. They express the relation between living beings, things or contexts. Verbs with fixed prepositions, however, connect the verb with an object. So in this case, the prepositions don't provide a context for time or location but instead are used idiomatically with the verb. Sometimes they can even change the meaning of the verb.

Adverbs with "da(r)" + preposition

The object connected to a verb by a fixed preposition can be replaced by certain adverbs known as prepositional adverbs.

"da" + preposition or "dar" + preposition (when the preposition begins with a vowel) can be used when:

... the object or context was just mentioned and is therefore known.

Example:

*Ich träume **von** einer eigenen Familie, Kinder, Haus, Hund!*

***Davon** träume ich, Harry!*

(= Julia has already told Harry about her dreams. That's why she can sum it all up in her second sentence.)

... when the object or context is explained immediately afterward.

Example:

*Ich denke **über** etwas nach. – Worüber denkst du nach?*

*Ich denke **darüber** nach, **dass** ich mit Julia sprechen muss.*

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

More:

"da(r)" + preposition can only be used for things, facts or circumstances. For living beings you have to use personal pronouns.

Example:

*Ich träume **von Julia** – Ich träume **von ihr**.*

*Ich denke **über Julia** nach. – Ich denke **über sie** nach.*