

Episode 084 – Grammar

1. Adverbs with "irgend-"

Adverbs provide more information about the location, time, manner or reason why something is or happens.

Certain adverbs, such as "wo", "wann" and "wie" can be combined with the prefix "irgend-" to indicate a general, unspecified place, time or manner.

Examples:

*Das war **irgendwann** im 6. Jahrhundert vor Christus.* (The exact time is undefined or unknown.)

*Können Sie mir sagen, ob es hier **irgendwo** ein Orakel gibt?* (The precise location is not known.)

*Das ist **irgendwie** unheimlich.* (What's "unheimlich" about it is not clearly specified.)

2. Indefinitpronomen mit "irgend-"

You've already come across indefinite pronouns. They are a sub-group of pronouns and are used

- when it's not clear who or what is doing the action ("man", "jemand", "etwas", "jeder", "nichts", "niemand").
- when it's not clear how many are involved ("alle", "alles", "einige", "viele").

Examples:

Jemand muss den Maibaum aufstellen.

Es ist **alles** fertig für die Feier!

Indefinite pronouns can be used to indicate people or things. Some refer only to people and others refer only to objects.

Some of them can be combined with "irgend-" for enhancement: "irgendeiner", "irgendjemand", "irgendetwas". These pronouns emphasize the fact that it doesn't matter which one or who is meant.

Examples:

Irgendjemand muss den Maibaum aufstellen.

Vielleicht weiß der Reiseleiter **irgendetwas** über das Orakel.

3. The various meanings of 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 or dialog 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" and "mal".

Examples:

*Beeilen Sie sich **doch**!*

*Beeilen Sie sich **mal**!*

The meaning of modal particles in a sentence depends very much on the context. "doch" can be used, for example, to express frustration or impatience in an imperative. But depending on the emphasis, it can also make a command more indirect, mild and polite. Such imperatives often include the word "bitte".

Examples:

*Kommen Sie **doch** bitte!* (polite)

*Sei **doch** mal still! Mein Gott, Harry!* (frustration)

*Beeilen Sie sich **doch**!* (impatience)

*Frag **doch** mal nach dem Orakel!* (suggestion)

Some modal particles can be combined with others.

Examples:

*Seien Sie **doch mal** still!*

*Kommen Sie **doch mal**!*