

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

Episode 097 – Grammar

1. Prepositions requiring the genitive

Prepositions connect words and groups of words together. They also determine the grammatical case of the words or groups of words that they precede in the sentence. In other words, they govern case.

Most German prepositions govern the accusative or dative cases.

Julia interessiert sich Preposition Accusative
für **die traponische Sprache.**

Er träumt Preposition Dative
von **einem großen Stück Schokolade.**

But there are also some prepositions that require the genitive.

Preposition	Example
<i>wegen</i>	<i>Ich wollte Deutsch lernen, aber ich hatte keine Zeit wegen des Jobs.</i>
<i>trotz</i>	<i>Trotz unserer Liebe hatten wir Probleme.</i>
<i>statt</i>	<i>Statt des Kuchens möchte ich lieber ein Brötchen.</i>
<i>während</i>	<i>Während der Zeit in Traponia war noch alles gut.</i>

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The genitive is becoming increasingly scarce!

For the prepositions listed above, it's becoming more and more common to use the dative instead of the genitive in colloquial speech. That's especially noticeable with masculine and neuter nouns because the dative and genitive forms for feminine nouns in the singular are the same.

Example:

*Ich wollte Deutsch lernen, aber ich hatte keine Zeit **wegen dem Job**.*

***Statt dem Kuchen** möchte ich lieber ein Brötchen.*

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2. Time clauses with "während"

Subordinate clauses are dependent upon independent clauses or other superordinate clauses. They cannot stand on their own. Often they begin with words (subordinating conjunctions, relative pronouns or question words) that connect them to the superordinate clause to which they refer.

"während" is a conjunction that introduces a temporal clause. Temporal subordinate clauses provide a time context to the action conveyed in the independent clause. They answer the question "Wann?" (when?). The conjunction "während" indicates that the occurrences in the independent and dependent clauses happen at the same time. The subordinate clause describes the span of time in which the independent-clause action takes place.

Example:

Julia hat Traponisch gelernt. – Wann?

*Julia hat Traponisch gelernt, **während** ich gearbeitet habe.*

(= While Harry was working, Julia did something else. She learned Traponian!)