

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

Episode 070 – Grammar

Derivation of adjectives

In German, various words can be combined with other words or syllables to form new words. You've already learned some of the more essential ways of word formation.

Combining individual words (compounds):

Examples:

<i>der Wind</i>	+	<i>das Rad</i>	=	<i>das Windrad</i>
<i>rot</i>	+	<i>der Wein</i>	=	<i>der Rotwein</i>

Adding prefixes to words:

Examples:

stehen → **aufstehen**
stehen → **verstehen**

Many nouns, verbs and adjectives can be turned into (other) adjectives by adding certain suffixes. Three of the most common suffixes to form adjectives are **-ig**, **-isch** and **-lich**.

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Original word	Suffix	Adjective
<i>der Freund</i>	-lich	freundlich
<i>das Glück</i>		glücklich
<i>der Pessimist</i>	-isch	pessimistisch
<i>der Typ</i>		typisch
<i>die Ruhe</i>	-ig	ruhig
<i>die Sonne</i>		sonnig

Deriving an adjective from another word may require the addition of an umlaut to the vowel, in other words it causes a vowel change.

Examples:

der Norden → **nördlich**
die Gefahr → **gefährlich**
der Hass → **hässlich**

Some other suffixes used to create adjectives include:

-los: *arbeitslos*
 -bar: *wunderbar*
 -haft: *traumhaft*
 -sam: *langsam*

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Word families

Words derived from the same base word are said to belong to a word family. If you know the base word, you'll usually be able to infer the meaning of related words. So word families can help you to understand unfamiliar words and expand your vocabulary. Here's an example of a word family with the base word

kauf-.

Verb

kaufen
verkaufen
einkaufen

Noun

der Verkäufer
das Kaufhaus
der Einkaufszettel

Adjective

ausverkauft
verkäuflich