

Episode 045 – Grammar

1. Relative clauses

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

Relative clauses are subordinate clauses that modify a noun or pronoun in the independent clause. Hence they refer back to a word in the main clause. Usually the relative clause comes directly after the word it modifies and is separated by a comma. If the independent clause continues after the relative clause, then a comma comes after the relative clause as well.

Examples:

*Der Mann hat ein blaues Auge. Fußballfans haben **den Mann** geschlagen.*

*Der Mann, **den** Fußballfans geschlagen haben, hat ein blaues Auge.*

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

2. Relative pronouns in the nominative and accusative cases

Relative clauses begin with a relative pronoun: "der", "die" or "das" in the nominative and "den", "die", "das" in the accusative. The number and gender of the relative pronoun is determined by the word it refers to in the main clause. The case of the relative pronoun, however, is determined by its role in the relative clause. It can be the subject or the object in the relative clause.

If the relative pronoun serves as the subject of the subordinate clause, then it is in the nominative case.

Examples:

*Es gibt eine Seilbahn. **Die Seilbahn** fährt bis zum Gipfel.*

*Es gibt eine Seilbahn, **die** bis zum Gipfel fährt.*

If the relative pronoun serves as an accusative object in the subordinate clause, then it is governed by the accusative case.

Examples:

*Er ist ein Mann. Die Fußballfans haben **den Mann** geschlagen.*

*Er ist ein Mann, **den** Fußballfans geschlagen haben.*

Declension of relative pronouns in the nominative and accusative cases

This chart shows the forms that relative pronouns take in the nominative and in the accusative:

	Masculine	Feminine	Neuter	Plural
Nominative	der	die	das	die
Accusative	den	die	das	die