

Episode 048 – Grammar

Expressing recommendations with "sollen"

Modal verbs usually modify another verb in the sentence - the main verb. They provide more information about the nature of the subject's relation to the action expressed by the main verb.

"sollen" (should or ought to) denotes a challenge or strong recommendation for someone to do something or conveys someone else's instructions.

Examples:

*Sie **sollen** im Bett bleiben.*

*Sie **sollen** Ihre Medizin nehmen.*

However, "sollen" can also be used to give advice by using it in the subjunctive II.

Examples:

Christian: *Du **solltest** dich mehr bewegen, Harry.*

(= Christian thinks it would be good for Harry to get in better shape. He advises Harry to get more exercise.)

Anna: *In Berlin **solltest** du dir den Reichstag ansehen.*

(= Anna gives Harry her recommendation to go see the Reichstag when he's in Berlin.)

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

Here are the most important subjunctive II forms of "sollen":

du: *Du **solltest** deine Kondition verbessern.*

ihr: *Ihr **solltet** in die Sauna gehen.*

Sie: *Sie **sollten** mehr Sport treiben.*