

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

Episode 014 – Grammar

1. Adverbs of time

What's an adverb?

Adverbs describe when, where or how something happens. They refer either to another word in the sentence (such as the verb) or to the sentence as a whole. Unlike adjectives, they don't refer to someone or something, in other words nouns or pronouns.

Adjective: *das **frische** Brötchen*
("frisch" (fresh) describes "das Brötchen" – a noun.)

Adverb: *Harry geht **schnell**.*
("schnell" (quickly) refers to "gehen" (to go) and doesn't describe "Harry", the noun, but the manner in which he is going.)

Temporal Adverbs

Temporal adverbs give more information about when something happened. They indicate a point in time, a length of time, or frequency.

gestern	yesterday
heute	today
morgen	tomorrow
übermorgen	the day after tomorrow

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"früh am Morgen" or "morgen früh"

The adverb "morgen" (tomorrow) is written in lower case. The noun, "der Morgen" (morning), is capitalized. So:

*heute **Morgen*** (= earlier today)

*Ich komme **morgen** früh.* (= tomorrow)

Here are some other adverbs of time that you already know:

endlich ***Endlich** (sind wir) auf der Autobahn!*

immer *Mein Tag ist **immer** gleich.*

zuerst *... **zuerst** das Wetter ...*

More:

Adverbs can be placed at the beginning of a sentence to give them special emphasis. In this case, the subject is placed after the conjugated verb.

***Wir haben heute** frische Brötchen.*



***Heute haben wir** frische Brötchen.*

This sentence structure emphasizes the adverb "heute". That could, for example, mean that there were no fresh rolls yesterday, but there are some today.

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2. Irregular verbs "sehen" and "wissen"

Here are two more irregular verbs. As with many irregular verbs, the stem vowel of "sehen" changes in the present tense for the 2nd and 3rd person singular.

		sehen
Singular	ich	sehe
	du	siehst
	er/sie/es	sieht
Plural	wir	sehen
	ihr	seht
	sie	sehen

The forms for "wissen" are very irregular. Keep in mind that the stem changes for all three singular forms and the endings are different than those for regular verbs.

		wissen	compared to a regular verb
Singular	ich	weiß	heißen
	du	weißt	heißt
	er/sie/es	weiß	heißt
Plural	wir	wissen	heißen
	ihr	wisst	heißt
	sie	wissen	heißen

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Long or short?

As you can see, the stem consonant in "wissen" changes from **ss** to **ß**. So which verb forms use **ss** and which use **ß**? That's easy, if you're familiar with articulation.

Both letters require a voiceless "ess" sound, but **ss** follows a short vowel and **ß** follows a long vowel.

So if the stem vowel of a verb changes, the spelling of the "ess" can change. With the verb "wissen", the vowel changes from a short **i** to a long **ei**. (Double vowels are never short.)