

Episode 024 – Grammar

1. The use of "man" in impersonal sentences

"man" is an impersonal pronoun that substitutes a noun. It is used to signify a person or several people, but no one in particular. So it is often used to express generalizations.

Example:

*Hier darf **man** nicht Fahrrad fahren. (= That applies to everyone.)*

"man" is always used in the nominative and the singular, even when it applies to "everyone". There is no plural form of "man".

"man" vs. "Mann"

Don't confuse "man", the impersonal pronoun, with the noun "Mann".

Written with one "**n**", "**man**" signifies people in general, including females.

"**Mann**" spelled with "**nn**" is the word for an adult male.

Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

2. Proper nouns in the genitive case

German has four grammatical cases: nominative, accusative, dative and genitive. The genitive is used to indicate possession.

A noun can be modified by another noun in the genitive, explaining what belongs to whom. When proper names are used in the genitive, they usually precede the other noun and an **-s** is added to the end.

	Name + -s (possessive proper noun)	Noun
<i>Das ist</i>	Julias	Fahrrad.
<i>Kennst du</i>	Julias	Freunde?