

Episode 044 – Grammar

Verbs with prefixes

Prefixes can be added to German verbs to give them completely new meanings.

Examples:

*suchen: Ich **suche** meine Freundin Julia.* (= I'm looking for my friend Julia.)

*aussuchen: Ich **suche** mir ein Trikot **aus**.* (= I choose one of several uniforms.)

*versuchen: **Versuchen** Sie es an der Information.* (= Try asking at the information desk.)

With some verbs, the conjugated form of the verb can be separated from the verb prefix. These are called separable verbs. The prefix is placed at the end of the sentence and the second part of the verb is conjugated as usual.

Examples:

*einsteigen: Harry **steigt** in die U-Bahn **ein**.* (= Harry gets into the tram.)

*umsteigen: Er **steigt** an der nächsten Haltestelle **um**.* (= Harry switches trams at the next stop.)

*aussteigen: Harry **steigt** am Bahnhof **aus**.* (= Harry gets out at the train station.)

Some verbs have prefixes that cannot stand by themselves. These are called inseparable verbs because the verb and its prefix jointly form an inseparable unit.

Examples:

*versuchen: **Versuchen** Sie es an der Information.*

*besuchen: Harry **besucht** Tom in Berlin.*