

LESSON TRANSCRIPT

Absolute Beginner S1 #1

Is Your Coffee as Strong as Your German Apologies?

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INTRODUCTION

Chuck: Chuck here. Absolute Beginners Series, Season 1, Lesson 1 – “Is Your Coffee as Strong as Your German Apologies?” Hello everyone, welcome to GermanPod101.

Judith: If you're looking for the best place online to learn German.

Chuck: You found it.

Judith: Today we're making a clean, fresh start. If you haven't studied any German before, start learning today with this lesson.

Chuck: And then just study a new lesson every week and you'll be speaking German in no time.

Judith: If you have studied German before, use these series for review or check out our intermediate series to learn more.

Chuck: In this lesson you'll be learning how to apologize in German.

Judith: This conversation takes place during a flight to Germany.

Chuck: The conversation is between Joe and [Anke].

Judith: Joe just spilled his water on [Ankes]'s lap.

Chuck: The speakers don't know each other. Therefore, they're speaking formal German. Let's listen to the conversation.

DIALOGUE

(A spills his water onto the next passenger's lap)

A: Oh! Entschuldigung! ... Entschuldigung, es tut mir wirklich leid.

D: Es ist schon okay.

A: Sind Sie sicher?

D: Ja. Es ist okay.

A: Sind Sie wirklich sicher?

D (grins): Ja. Es ist nur Wasser.

A: Kein Problem?

D: Nein, kein Problem.

A: Ich bin Joe Cardigan, und Sie?

D: Ich bin Anke Löwen.

(A spills his water onto the next passenger's lap)

A: Oh! Excuse me! ... Excuse me, I'm really sorry.

D: It's okay.

A: Are you sure?

D: Yes. It's okay.

A: Are you really sure?

D (grins): Yes. It's just water.

A: No problem?

D: No, no problem.

A: I'm Joe Cardigan, and you?

D: I'm Anke Löwen.

POST CONVERSATION BANTER

Judith: Well, I think this lesson is perfect to teach you the word [Entschuldigung] because it appears so often. It's the most general word of apology in German.

Chuck: This literally means "apology" and it's used in most situations.

Judith: It is however not used when somebody tells you some sad news about themselves.

Chuck: Because that's not something you should apologize for. Unless you has any stake in it.

Judith: If you need something stronger than [Entschuldigung] use [Es tut mir leid].

Chuck: That means literally "It does me harm." And you can make it even stronger by adding an adverb before the leid].

Judith: [Es tut mir wirklich leid]

Chuck: "I'm really sorry."

Judith: [Es tut mir sehr leid]

Chuck: "I'm very sorry." So, [Judith] how do you accept an apology informally?

Judith: [Es ist okay, Es ist schon okay]

Chuck: "It's okay." "It's okay already."

Judith: [Kein Problem]

Chuck: "No problem." Let's take a look at the vocabulary for this lesson.

VOCAB LIST

Judith: First word. [wirklich]

Chuck: "Really".

Judith: [wirklich, wirklich] Next, [sein]

Chuck: "To be".

Judith: [sein, sein] Next, [es]

Chuck: "It".

Judith: [es, es] Next, [schon]

Chuck: "Already".

Judith: [schon, schon] Next, [Sie]

Chuck: "You" – formally.

Judith: [Sie, Sie] Next, [sicher]

Chuck: "Certain" or "sure".

Judith: [sicher, sicher] Next, [ja]

Chuck: "Yes".

Judith: [ja, ja] Next, [nur]

Chuck: "Only" or "just".

Judith: [nur, nur] Next, [Wasser]

Chuck: "Water".

Judith: [Wasser, das Wasser] This is neutral. Next, [nein]

Chuck: "No".

Judith: [nein, nein] Next, [Ich]

Chuck: "I".

Judith: [Ich, Ich] Next, [und]

Chuck: "And".

Judith: [und, und]

VOCAB AND PHRASE USAGE

Chuck: Let's have a closer look at the usage for some of the words and phrases from this lesson.

Judith: The first word we'll look at is [Sie].

Chuck: "You" – formally. It does national formality in German just like in French, Spanish, Italian and other languages.

Judith: If you're addressing somebody by their family name you should also call them [Sie] and you should use the corresponding form of the verbs.

Chuck: If you're addressing somebody by their first name, you usually use another pronoun, [Du].

Judith: The formal address is the default in German, unless you're talking to children or people who exclusively ask you to switch to an informal address. As a foreigner, you do well to address everybody as [Sie], initially.

Chuck: Though you might occasionally get some laughs if you're younger and you did that to people about your own age.

Judith: Yeah, about student age.

Chuck: Did you learn that in a text book?

Judith: It's worst than offending somebody by calling them [Du] when they don't want you to.

Chuck: Yeah, that's true.

LESSON FOCUS

Chuck: In this lesson, we've seen a few forms of the verb [sein], "to be". This verb is regular on almost all languages and German is no exception. Here're the forms we've seen.

Judith: [sein]

Chuck: "To be".

Judith: [Ich bin]

Chuck: "I am".

Judith: [Es ist]

Chuck: "It is".

Judith: [Sie sind]

Chuck: "You are" – formally.

Judith: I'll repeat. [Ich bin, Es ist, Sie sind]

Chuck: We've also seen the German word order corresponds to English so far. When you're asking a question, the verb is most in front of the sentence in German, just like in English.

Judith: [Sind Sie Joe]

Chuck: "Are you Joe?"

Judith: [Sind Sie sicher]?

Chuck: "Are you sure?" Well, that just about does it for today. Before we go, I want to tell you about a way to drastically improve your pronunciation.

OUTRO

Judith: The voice recording tool.

Chuck: Yes, the voice recording tool in the premium learning center.

Judith: Record your voice with the click of a button.

Chuck: Then play it back just as easily.

Judith: So, you record your voice then you listen to it.

Chuck: Compare it to the native speakers.

Judith: And adjust your pronunciation.

Chuck: This will help you improve your pronunciation fast.

Judith: Also, I recommend you to listen to our accent improvement lessons that we published last year. And tune in again next week for the next beginner lesson. [Bis dann]!

Chuck: See you then.

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