

GRAMMAR B1 EINHEIT 7

One of the points of grammar introduced in this unit is subordinate clauses with *zu* + an infinitive. Until now you have simply used the infinitive to convey the idea of *to do* plus the infinitive. That's because you have been using the infinitive in conjunction with a modal verb *Ich will irgendwann mal wieder in einem Restaurant essen*. Infinitives following modals are used without *zu*. *Helfen, lassen, sehen, and hören* are also used without *zu* *Ich höre die Autos auf der Straße hupen*. Most all other verbs require the use of *zu* before the infinitive.

Ich wünsche mir, alleine zu verreisen. Es ist schön, gute Freunde zu haben.
Ich habe Lust, in die Sonne zu fliegen. Kannst du dir vorstellen, ohne deine Eltern wegzufahren?

When the infinitival clause consists only of *zu* + infinitive, you don't use a comma.

Ich habe vor zu arbeiten.

Another point of grammar introduced in this unit is *wo* used as a relative pronoun. *Wo* must be used as the relative pronoun if the antecedent is a place name *Ich wohne in Metamora, wo es keine vegetarische Restaurants gibt*. It must also be used when the antecedent is an adverb or an adverbial phrase *Bleib hier, wo ich dich sehen kann. Ich bleibe zu Hause, wo es schön warm ist*. In colloquial German *wo* is frequently used when the antecedent refers to a place, especially when the relative pronoun is the object of a preposition *Das ist das Haus, wo ich 10 Jahre gewohnt habe* (instead of *in dem*). *Ich möchte in ein Land, wo es nicht kalt ist*.

Don't forget *wo* you can't end a sentence with a preposition. Consequently, if the relative pronoun is the object of a preposition, the relative clause begins with the preposition and is followed by the relative pronoun.

Hier ist das Haus, in dem ich zehn Jahre gewohnt habe.
Das ist Britta, mit der ich schon seit der ersten Klasse zusammen bin.
Hast du einen Freund, für den du alles tun würdest?
Sie ist das Mädchen, auf das ich schon immer gewartet habe.

The final point of grammar introduced in this unit is *da* and *wo* compounds. In German, you don't follow a preposition with *es* or *was*. Instead you replace *es* with *da* (*dar* if the preposition begins with a vowel) and *was* gets replaced by *wo(r)* plus the preposition.

Womit fährst du in die Stadt? Worauf hast du so lange gewartet?
Ich habe nichts dagegen. Ich bleibe hier und warte darauf.

Remember, *da* and *wo* compounds can never be used when referring to people. When referring to people you must follow the preposition with the personal pronoun in whatever case required by the preposition.

Mit wem fährst du in die Stadt? Auf wen hast du so lange gewartet?
Ich habe nichts gegen ihn/sie. Ich bleibe hier und warte auf ihn/sie.

Although not directly covered in this unit, there are some uses of the infinitival clause (*zu* + infinitive) that are very useful to know.

Um...zu means 'in order to'. In English we frequently don't express the 'in order to'. I need a computer to do my homework. If you can reasonably say 'in order to' instead of simply 'to' you must use *um zu* in German *Ich brauche einen Computer um meine Hausaufgaben zu machen.*

Ohne...zu is used to express 'without'. *Als Kind durfte ich den Kühlschrank nicht aufmachen ohne meine Eltern zu fragen.*

Statt...zu means, 'instead of'. *Statt die Hausaufgaben zu machen ging er ins Kino.*

Infinitival constructions are used with *sein* way more than with the 'to be' in English.. Consequently, such sentences often can't be translated into literally into English. Frequently, 'can't be' is a suitable translation. *Das ist nicht zu kaufen.* – That can't be bought.

Sometimes the exact opposite is the case where we use an infinitival clause in English where a totally different construction is called for in German.

Probably the most common example of this is when a subordinate clause is introduced by a question word. I don't know what to eat. In German you must use the equivalent of 'what I should eat'. *Ich weiß nicht, was ich essen soll.* Remember, don't follow a question word with an infinitival construction.

In English we frequently make an objective pronoun (or noun) the subject of an infinitival clause. Although not impossible, it is uncommon in German. This frequently happens with 'to tell' (*sagen*), 'to want' (*wollen*), and 'would like' (*möchten*). It is not possible to have an objective case subject of an infinitival clause in German with those verbs. Look at the following constructions.

My father wants me to eat the fish. *Mein Vater will, dass ich den Fisch esse.*

My mother would like me to watch my sister. *Meine Mutter möchte, dass ich auf meine Schwester aufpasse.*

My teacher told me to do my homework. *Mein Lehrer sagte mir, dass ich meine Hausaufgaben machen sollte.*

As you can see in the last example, when *sagen* is the main verb, a form of *sollen* is often used to complete the clause.

