Episode 010 – Grammar

1. Joining main clauses with "und" and "oder"

A main clause contains at least a subject and a conjugated verb. "und" and "oder" are conjunctions that can connect two independent clauses.

No conjunction:  
- Ich bin in Deutschland.  
- Bist du dumm?  
- Ich mache Urlaub.  
- Bist du klug?

With a conjunction:  
- Ich bin in Deutschland und ich mache Urlaub.  
- Bist du dumm oder bist du klug?

If the two clauses share the same subject, then the subject can be omitted from the second main clause. That's shorter:

Shortened form:  
- Ich bin in Deutschland und mache Urlaub.

If the subject and conjugated verb are identical in each of the main clauses, then both can be dropped from the second clause.

Shortened form:  
- Bist du dumm oder klug?
2. **Adjectives describing a person**

German adjectives provide more information about something or someone, an occurrence or a condition. They often describe nouns and personal pronouns. For many adjectives there is an opposite (antonym).

Examples:
Ich bin nicht *klein*. Ich bin *groß*.
Ich bin nicht *dick*. Ich bin *schlank*.
Ich bin nicht *hässlich*. Ich bin *schön*.
Bist du *klug* oder bist du *dumm*?

**More:**

When adjectives are placed after the noun or personal pronoun - like in the examples above - the basic form doesn't change.

If the adjectives precede the noun that they modify, then they are inflected. That means their endings change.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Definite article</th>
<th>Indefinite article</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>der kluge Mann</em></td>
<td><em>ein kluger Mann</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>