

# Harry – gefangen in der Zeit

Begleitmaterialien

## Episode 081 – Grammar

### Placement of direct and indirect objects in a sentence

In a German declarative sentence the subject is often at the beginning of the sentence, followed by the verb. If the sentence has an object, it follows the verb.

Some sentences have just one object.

Examples:

*Ich öffne **den Umschlag**.* (accusative object)

*Sie werden **das Orakel** nie finden!* (accusative object)

*Der Umschlag gehört **mir**.* (dative object)

But some sentences can have more than one object.

Gib            **mir**            **den Umschlag**.

↑                    ↑

Dativobjekt      Akkusativobjekt

The order of the objects in a sentence depends on whether the object is a noun, noun phrase (i.e. a noun + words that modify the noun, such as an article or adjective) or a pronoun.

In this case, the following word order usually applies:



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*Anderson hat Informationen. Er gibt*

**sie**



accusative object  
pronoun

**Harry.**



dative object  
noun

If pronouns are used to replace both objects, then the accusative object precedes the dative object.

Examples:

*Anderson hat Informationen.*

*Gib mir den Umschlag!*

*Er gibt*

**sie**

**ihn**



accusative object  
pronoun

**dir.**

**mir!**



dative object  
pronoun