

Deutsch lernen und unterrichten – Arbeitsmaterialien

Radio D – Teil 1

Episode 01 – A Visit to the Countryside

Philipp, a young man, drives to the countryside to visit his mother Hanne. He plans to relax there, but soon finds out that the idyllic country landscape has its downsides as well.

"Nature, how nice!" says Philipp as he arrives at his mother's home in the countryside, where he would like to spend some time away from it all. Cats and cows aren't the only creatures he finds, however. While he innocently drinks a cup of coffee in the garden, annoying insects rob Philipp of the peace and quiet he'd been hoping for -- and then things get a bit more painful for poor Philipp.

Even if your German vocabulary isn't very extensive yet, you will still be able to understand the episode. The **background noises** make it clear where Philipp is. In this episode, you'll learn **greetings** and **farewells**.

Manuscript of Episode 01

You're listening to Radio D, the radio language course of Redaktion D, a joint project of the Goethe Institut and Deutsche Welle Radio. The author is Herrad Meese.

Moderator

Hello, I'm your host for the Radio D German language course. A warm welcome to the first episode. I've been told not to let you know just yet where the stories you'll hear are set, nor the people playing in them. Now, why's that? Because in this episode we want to show you how much you can already understand **without knowing** German. So how's that going to work? Well, it's quite simple, actually. Listen now only to the **sounds** and the **images** those sounds create in your mind. Perhaps they'll even join up into a little story. So, here we go with the first scene.

Philipp

Hallo. Haaalloo.

Professor

Whoa! Stop! That's rushing things! I haven't had a chance to greet our listeners. Hello to all of you. They call me the professor because... well, I'm interested in the German language. And I'll be trying to help you understand it.

Moderator

Ooops, sorry about that, Professor, I really didn't mean to cut you out.

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Now, listeners, would you please get some paper and something to write with, and note one or more cues about every scene. That is, of course, only if you're not driving yourself right now!

So, everyone set? Here we go into scene one.

Try to figure out from what you're hearing where the young man is driving in the following scene. And have you heard his name?

Szene 1: Auf dem Land

Philipp

Hallo. Haaallooo.

Hallo, Mieze.

Frau (Hanne) Frisch

Hallo, Philipp. Tag, mein Junge. Willkommen.

Philipp

Tag, Hanne.

Ach, schön hier.

Moderator

Now, that was easy – right? We're sure you figured out that the young man is driving into the **country** – we're hearing a mooing cow, a miowing cat, a tractor chugging past. Maybe you've also gathered that the young man is called **Philipp** and that a woman in the country is expecting him.

Listen now how the action continues. Pay special attention again to the sounds and note a cue. What **drink** is Philipp being served?

Szene 2: Im Haus

Frau Frisch

Hallo, Philipp, Kaffee.

Philipp

Was ist?

Frau Frisch

Kaffee. Es gibt Kaffee.

Philipp

Okay, danke.

Hm, der Kaffee ist gut.

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Moderator

After driving from town into the country the first thing Philipp does is have a shower, and then he's treated to **coffee** by Hanne – whoever that is. So, Philipp's in clover. Not for long, though, unfortunately. Listen. Pay attention again to the sounds and the tone of Philipp's voice. How's his mood changing? And why? Jot down two or three cues.

Szene 3: Im Garten

Philipp

Ah! Super! Einfach super hier. Ach ja.

Natur, Natur pur.
Ist das schön.

Und die Kuh macht muh.

muuh, muuh

Na ja, der Traktor...

Hey! Schluss jetzt! Aufhören!

Au. Aua.
Mistbiene.

Frau Frisch

Alles okay?

Philipp

Nein.
Mistbiene.

Natur, Natur pur – na super!

Moderator

Poor old Philipp! It was all so nice to start with. He's thrilled to be in the outdoors, with the rustling leaves and the humming of the bees; even the mooing of the cows and the to-ing and fro-ing of the tractor amuse him. Too bad, though, that there are also lots of flies in the country, and they can be so annoying! Bees, too, and their sting hurts. When one stings Philipp his good mood goes. Understandably, he's no longer so pleased with everything and rants about nature. He goes back into his room in the house.

But he's not going to find the peace and quiet he's looking for there, either.
Join us for the next episode to find out why.
Here's the professor again.

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Professor

Glad you've joined us for our first chat about language; to be more precise: a chat about some techniques that facilitate understanding when listening. There are things you did more or less unconsciously as you heard the scenes, and we'd like to go over that with you. Let's have another listen to scene one.

Moderator

Excuse me, professor, but surely it's obvious to everyone that they're hearing a car and that someone's arriving at some place in the country.

Professor

Absolutely right. But unfortunately when people are learning a foreign language they often forget that. We pay attention only to the words, especially those we don't understand. I want to get listeners focusing on what they can already guess. And part of that are sounds.

Moderator

Okay, I understand. The sounds we heard there tell us **where** the story is playing.

Professor

Exactly. But they let you draw some more conclusions, for example **what** someone is doing, just what's going on there.

Moderator

OK, so that's obvious, too: someone's having a shower. But I expect you'll probably tell us something else we can deduce there – right?

Professor

Absolutely. We can pay attention to the **tone**, for example, whether people are laughing or whether they're furious.

Moderator

But that varies from culture to culture, surely? I mean, some people speak very loudly and excitedly...

Professor

... yes, and that makes the Germans think that people are fighting, which isn't the case at all. It's just a very lively conversation. You have to visualise the whole situation, the **context**, like in the next scene.

Philipp

Ah! Super! Einfach super hier. Ach ja.

Natur, Natur pur.
Ist das schön.

Hey! Schluss jetzt! Aufhören!

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Philipp

Hallo. Haaallooo.

Hallo, Mieke.

Frau (Hanne) Frisch

Hallo, Philipp. Tag, mein Junge. Willkommen.

Philipp

Tag, Hanne.

Moderator

OK then, so when Philipp drives out into the country to relax in peace and quiet the flies are going to bother him, of course, and he gets annoyed.

Professor

Yes, of course, but that's the way people from towns imagine idyllic rural life to be.

Moderator

Yeah, actually we're going to talk about what helps to understand a language, professor.

Professor

Of course. Sounds help, the tone of voice helps, but there are some more techniques to help us understand. If you rely on the pictures that happen in your head as you listen you'll automatically visualise a certain situation. Like in the first scene, if someone stops after driving a car and blows the horn it's pretty safe to assume that he's arrived at a place where people know him and are expecting him. So what's then said are likely to be words of greeting.

Moderator

But, professor, the way people greet each other also varies between cultures.

Professor

Right. But it was important for me to show that one recognises the **situation**: two people greeting each other.

Moderator

... and that's the opposite to what we have to do now which is to say goodbye. Thanks very much for being with us.

Professor

Goodbye everyone!

You've been listening to Radio D, a German course of the Goethe Institut and Deutsche Welle Radio.

Herrad Meese

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