

Deutsch lernen und unterrichten – Arbeitsmaterialien

Radio D – Teil 1

Episode 16 – Icarus

Both journalists are fascinated with Icarus, the tragic hero from Greek mythology. But do the listeners know who Icarus was? Paula and Philipp tell his story.

Seeing a little boy in an Icarus costume gives Paula and Philipp an idea: They decide to present the Greek saga in one of their radio plays. The story is about a youth who doesn't heed the advice of his father Dädalus and falls while trying to fly. He can't resist the temptation to get close to the sun, but he gets so close that the wax in his wings starts to melt.

"Don't fly too high, don't fly too low," Dädalus tells his son Icarus. The **imperative**, which is covered in this episode, can be used to make a request, a demand, a warning or an order. If Icarus had listened to his father's warning, maybe he wouldn't have fallen.

Manuscript of Episode 16

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

Welcome to Episode Sixteen of your German course with *Radio D*. Last time we were together, our reporters Paula and Philipp met a father and son in the carnival hurly-burly. And they've spoken to the boy. He's dressed up as Icarus but doesn't know the story of this figure from Greek mythology. Let's hear him again:

Paula

Sag mal, kennst du die **Geschichte** von Ikarus?

Junge

Nö, is doch egal.
Hauptsache, ick kann fliegen.

Moderator

Well, if you know the Icarus story, you can probably guess that the man with the boy is impersonating his father, Daedalus – DÄDALUS. And Paula and Philipp spoke to him as well.

Paula

Hallo, liebe Hörerinnen und Hörer.

Philipp

Willkommen...

Paula

... bei Radio D.

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Radio D – Teil 1

Philipp
Radio D...

Paula
... die Reportage

Moderator
Listen to the conversation with the man dressed up as Daedalus. Please, concentrate on the questions “Where is the man from?” and “What links him with the mythical Daedalus?”

Szene 1: Auf der Straße – Dädalus

Philipp
Und dann sind Sie wohl Dädalus?

Mann
Ja, ich bin der Vater vom Ikarus.

Paula
Dädalus und Ikarus, die Geschichte ist ja sehr traurig.

Mann
Ja, das jibbet.
Dädalus war im Exil.
Und ich, also ich –
irgendwie bin ich ja auch im Exil.

Philipp
Woher kommen Sie denn?

Mann
Na, aus Kreta.

Moderator
Did you catch the name of the Greek island Crete – **KRETA**? That's where the man comes from, or so he claims, and Daedalus was also from Crete.

Philipp
Woher kommen Sie denn?

Mann
Na, aus Kreta.

Moderator
Daedalus was a highly skilled artisan in Athens. He had a very talented apprentice, who invented the saw. According to legend that make Daedalus so envious that, he pushed the apprentice off the roof of a temple. Daedalus then fled into exile – EXIL - on Crete, and he lived far from his home. And that's what links the carnival reveller with the figure of Daedalus.

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Mann

Dädalus war im Exil.
Und ich, also ich –
irgendwie bin ich ja auch im Exil.

Mann

Und ich, also ich –
irgendwie bin ich ja auch im Exil.

Paula

Dädalus und Ikarus, die Geschichte ist ja sehr traurig.

Mann

Ja, dat jibbet.

Philipp

Radio D...

Paula

... das Hörspiel.

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Moderator

You know, carnival is a time when it's hard to tell whether someone's serious or joking. And so unfortunately we're not going to find out whether the man really is from Crete. It's quite possible, though, because there are lots of Greeks living in Germany.

Of course, the parallel between Daedalus' exile and the life of the man in Germany isn't quite accurate. The man knows it, too, so he says that "somehow" – **IRGENDWIE** – he's also living in exile.

Moderator

By that he's probably alluding to the fact that his homeland is far away.

The only thing we can be sure of is that the man is speaking in Cologne dialect. When Paula says, the story about Icarus and Daedalus is very sad, he answers in a typical Cologne way, "Yes, that happens".

Moderator

We don't know what version of story the man has told his son, but the way we know it from Greek mythology, it does end very sadly.

Daedalus and Icarus were trapped in a labyrinth on Crete. Never mind, why. Anyway, Daedalus wanted to escape with his son and had a brilliant idea. He collected feathers, bonded them with wax and built wings for himself and his son. Have a listen to our version:

Moderator

Imagine a situation in which flying is the subject. In it the contrast between high – HOCH – and low – TIEF is very important. And now listen. What's Icarus supposed to do? What does he do?

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Szene 2: Dädalus und Ikarus

Ikarus

Was machst du da?

Dädalus

Flügel, mein Sohn, Flügel.

Ikarus

Fliegen wir weg?

Dädalus

Ja, wir fliegen weg.

Ich fliege zuerst,
dann fliegst du.
Aber: pass auf!

Flieg nicht zu hoch.
Flieg nicht zu tief.
Hörst du?

Erzählerin

Und sie fliegen und fliegen,
und es ist wunderschön.
Ikarus ist glücklich und fliegt hoch, hoch –
... er fliegt zu hoch.

Dädalus

Ikarus, mein Sohn,
wo bist du?

iiiiiiiiiiiiikarus!

Moderator

In such a daring adventure it's pretty clear what instructions Icarus gets from his father: be careful!

Dädalus

Aber: pass auf!

Moderator

And just to be sure Daedalus makes his instructions very precise: Icarus is not to fly too high – HOCH...

Dädalus

Flieg nicht zu hoch.

Moderator

... nor is he to fly too low – TIEF.

Dädalus

Flieg nicht zu tief.

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Erzählerin

Und sie fliegen und fliegen,
und es ist wunderschön.

Erzählerin

Ikarus ist glücklich und fliegt hoch, hoch...
... Er fliegt zu hoch.

Dädalus

Ikarus, mein Sohn,
wo bist du?
iiiiiiiiiiiiikarus!

Paula

Und nun kommt – unser Professor.

Ayhan

Radio D...

Paula

... Gespräch über Sprache.

Sprecher

Pass auf!

Moderator

If Icarus were to fly too high, he'd get too close to the sun – at least that's what people would have thought in those days – and the wax holding the feathers together would melt. And if Icarus were to fly too low, he'd wet the feathers in the sea and they'd get too heavy. They fly off, and it's wonderful.

Moderator

And then: disaster strikes! Icarus is happy, deliriously so, as we can imagine – and he flies too high.

Moderator

Icarus plunges into the sea, his distraught father can only see a few feathers floating on the water and he calls and calls for his son, in vain.

Moderator

Yes, it's sad, isn't it!? But let's get back to the here and now where our professor awaits us.

Professor

Yes, the Daedalus-Icarus story really is tragic. First the father admonishes his son in quite general terms to be careful, to watch out.

Moderator

Then the father warns his son, "Don't fly too low!"

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Sprecher

Flieg nicht zu tief.

Professor

In both cases the father used the imperative form. In German the verb in the imperative comes first in the sentence. Listen to the example again and focus please on the verb **FLIEG** in first place.

Dädalus

Flieg nicht zu tief.

Moderator

But the son Icarus didn't take this instruction seriously enough, more just as a piece of advice.

Maybe he wouldn't have plunged into the sea if he'd obeyed?

Professor

We all know that demands, even if they have the same form of the imperative, **sound** very different. In other words, the imperative can have various functions – depending on how it's intoned and on the context. Spoken neutrally it's a piece of advice.

Sprecher

Pass auf.
Flieg nicht zu hoch.

Moderator

But the same demand can be a warning or even a threat.

Sprecherin

Pass auf!

Professor

Right. But it can also be a request, a plea.

Sprecherin

Entschuldige bitte.

Moderator

And it can also be just a friendly way of opening a conversation.

Paula

Na klar; entschuldige bitte, Ikarus.

Sprecherin

Sag mal...

Paula

Sag mal, kennst du die Geschichte von Ikarus?

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Dädalus

Ja, mein Sohn, wir fliegen weg.
Aber pass auf!
Flieg nicht zu hoch. Flieg nicht zu tief.

Professor

To finish, I'd like to focus our students' attention on a very small but very important word, **ZU**, when it occurs before adjectives. Daedalus doesn't simply warn his son not to fly high or low, he's warning him not to breach a certain norm, that is, not to fly **too** low or **too** high – with the well known consequences.

Moderator

OK, thanks again, Professor.

Professor

My pleasure.

Moderator

And you, listeners, can now hear those two scenes again – and at the end, a new one as well.

Listen to what links the man dressed up as Daedalus with the Daedalus of Greek mythology.

Philipp

Und dann sind Sie wohl Dädalus?

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Philipp

Woher kommen Sie denn?

Mann

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Moderator

This is how one can imagine the Greek myth might have happened:

Ikarus

Was machst du da?

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Dädalus

Flügel, mein Sohn, Flügel.

Ikarus

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Dädalus

Ikarus, mein Sohn,
wo bist du?

iiiiiiiiiiiiikarus!

Moderator

It's not only people on the street celebrating carnival, in the radio newsroom, too, Eulalia, Compu and Josefine are celebrating.

Szene 3: In der Redaktion

Josefine

Heute ist Karneval.
Compu: Musik!

Compu

Aber logo, sofort.

Josefine

Seht mal, ich habe Flügel.
Ist das nicht super?
Ich fliege, ich fliege...

Compu

Du fliegst?

Eulalia

Nur ich fliege wirklich.

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Paula

Liebe Hörerinnen und Hörer, bis zum nächsten Mal.

Ayhan

Und tschüs.

Moderator

And with that we have to move on and leave the carnival behind us. Goodbye.

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

Herrad Meese