19. Modales Partizip

Class objective - To be able to use modales Partizip in the sentence.

Concept A: Meaning

Modal particles or Modalpartikeln as they are known in German; a dry sounding term for something that brings a lot of colour and life to the German language!

Modal particles are little words that express connotations such as feelings or moods. Because of this, they are also sometimes referred to as "filler words". Basically, they amount to verbal emojis:D

Modal particles are not strictly speaking necessary, since they don't have a specific and essential grammatical function (they can be left out). They do breathe colour into the language though.

Most of these particles have multiple meanings depending on the context. Nevertheless, we think it is a good idea that you familiarise yourself with them since they are very common, especially in everyday speech.

These words are particularly important in the German cultural context - where feelings are often not explicitly spoken about - since they are often great clues about the mood or the attitude towards a topic that a speaker might have.

And not only that! Some of them are also very important when it comes to asking for something more politely.

Let's look at some examples:

doch

Man zeigt an: Ich bin überrascht, dass der Gesprächspartner etwas nicht weiß.

Ich war doch schon mal hier.

→ Ich dachte, dass mein Gesprächspartner weiß, dass ich schon mal hier war.

Im Imperativ macht doch den Satz höflicher und nicht mehr ganz so streng.

Komm doch mit! ist freundlicher als Komm mit!.

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Man sagt etwas, was der Gesprächspartner wahrscheinlich schon weiß.

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