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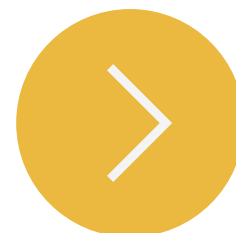
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SENTENCE STRUCTURE L 12 – INFINITIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

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WHAT ARE INFINITIVE CONSTRUCTIONS?

Infinitive constructions are clauses with "um...zu...", "ohne...zu..." and "(an)statt... zu...". They aren't related to the verb and each construction has its own specific meaning. But they are related to infinitive clauses because both have no subject and use the infinitive + zu form at the end of the sentence.

CLAUSES WITH "UM... ZU..."

The construction "um... zu..." expresses a purpose, intention, or goal.

Questions: Wozu? Wofür? Zu welchem Zweck?

- „**Wofür lernst du Deutsch?**“

„Ich lerne Deutsch, **um** in Deutschland arbeiten **zu können**.“

„Ich lerne Deutsch, **um** mit den Eltern von meinem Mann sprechen **zu können**.“

Condition for the use of "um... zu..." is that the subject in the main clause must be the same as that in the subordinate clause.

- „**Ich** gehe einkaufen, **damit ich** morgen etwas zum Essen im Kühlschrank habe.“
=
„**Ich** gehe einkaufen, **um** morgen etwas zum Essen im Kühlschrank **zu haben**.“
- „**Ich** spiele in eurem Team, **damit beide Teams** gleich stark sind.“

No "um... zu..." construction is possible since the subject is not the same (see also Final Clauses).

CLAUSES WITH "OHNE... ZU..."

With the construction "ohne... zu..." one expresses a negation or restriction.

- „Er hat die Party verlassen, **ohne** Tschüss **zu sagen**.“
→ He left the party without saying goodbye.

- „Er hat Deutsch gelernt, **ohne** einen Deutschkurs **zu besuchen**.“
→ He learned German without taking a German course.
- „Er ist Auto gefahren, **ohne** einen Führerschein **zu haben**.“
→ He drove even though he didn't have a driver's license.

The condition for the use of "ohne... zu..." is that the subjects of the main clause must be similar to the one of the subordinate clause.

- „**Ich** schreibe den Test, **ohne dass ich** gelernt habe.“
=
„**Ich** schreibe den Test, **ohne** gelernt **zu haben**.“
- „**Meine Tochter** ist eingeschlafen, **ohne dass ich** ihr ein Lied vorgesungen habe.“

→ No "ohne...zu..." construction is possible since the subjects are not the same.
(See also Modal Clauses)

CLAUSES WITH "ANSTATT... ZU..."

The construction "(an)statt... zu..." describes a substitute action or something not expected in that situation.

- „Ich bleibe zu Hause, **statt** mit meinen Freunden an den Strand **zu gehen**.“
→ Action not expected (I don't want to, I have to study, or ...).
- „Du solltest Hausaufgaben machen, **anstatt** den ganzen Tag Computerspiele **zu spielen**.“
→ The child (unexpectedly) hasn't done his homework and instead played computer games the whole day.

The condition for the use of "(an)statt... zu..." is that the subject of the main clause must be similar to the subject of the subordinate clause.

- „**Ich** bleibe zu Hause, **anstatt dass ich** in den Urlaub fahre.“

=

„**Ich** bleibe zu Hause, **anstatt** in den Urlaub **zu fahren**.“

I couldn't find an example that makes sense in which the two subjects aren't the same, but in case you will find one anyways, the rule still applies: The "(an)statt...zu..." construction is impossible if the subjects are not the same (see also Modal Clauses).

SUMMARY

- Infinitive constructions are subordinate clauses with "um... zu...", "ohne... zu...", or "(an)statt... zu...".
- "Um... zu..." describes a purpose, intention, or goal.
- "Ohne... zu..." states a negation or a limitation.
- "(An)statt... zu..." is a substitute action or something unexpected.
- In order to use an infinitive construction, the subjects of the main clause and subordinate clause must be the same.

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