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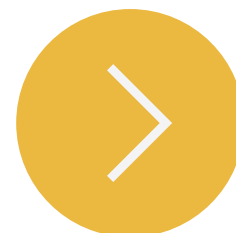
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SENTENCE STRUCTURE L9.1 – "DASS"-CLAUSES

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WHAT ARE DASS – CLAUSES?

Dass-clauses are subordinate clauses → Verb at the end.

Clauses with "dass" describe a situation or action necessary for the main clause to make sense.

- It takes the place of a complement: a grammatically necessary part of a sentence, which is needed for the sentence to make sense.
- The main clause doesn't make sense without the subordinate clause. Therefore, dass-clauses are also known as clause complements.

VERBS WITH DASS – COMPLEMENTS

Dass-clauses are required for certain verbs and expressions:

1. When something is known or believed:

- „Ich weiß, **dass** du gestern bei Maria warst!“
- „Ich bin mir sicher, **dass** du das besser kannst.“
- „Ich glaube, **dass** Mark in mich verliebt ist.“

Also: denken, meinen, vermuten, der Meinung sein, hoffen, ...

2. For Thoughts / Feelings / Opinions:

- „Ich finde, **dass** ihr mehr Deutsch lernen solltet.“
- „Ich finde es gut, **dass** du viel Sport machst.“
- „Es ist wichtig, **dass** du jeden Tag Deutsch lernst.“
- „Es tut mir leid, **dass** ich dich angeschrien habe.“
- „Ich freue mich, **dass** du die Prüfung bestanden hast.“
- „Ich habe Angst, **dass** du mich verlässt.“

3. For indirect speech = repeating what was already said:

- „Er sagt, **dass** er zu Hause sei.“
- „Sie haben geantwortet, **dass** sie bei Oma gewesen wären.“

Dass-clauses express an action or situation. Without that expression, the main clause doesn't make sense or might leave some questions open.

Additionally, the speaker is **always relatively sure** about what he's saying.

“DASS” OR “OB”?

When the speaker isn't sure, "ob" must be used:

- „Ich habe keine Ahnung, **ob** ich die Prüfung schaffen werde.“
- „Jan überprüft, **ob** er noch genug Geld auf dem Konto hat.“

Some verbs express certainty or uncertainty:

- „Er sagt, **dass** du gestern bei Oma warst.“ (certain)
- „Er sagt mir nicht, **ob** du gestern bei Oma warst.“ (uncertain)
- „Ich weiß, **dass** du mich liebst.“ (certain)
- „Ich weiß nicht, **ob** du mich liebst.“ (uncertain)

WORD ORDER

They are subordinate clauses. Therefore, the verb goes at the end:

Main Clause	Subordinate Clause
Es ist wichtig	, dass du gesund <u>bist</u> .
Ich weiß nicht	, ob du gesund <u>bist</u> .
Subordinate Clause	Main Clause
Dass du gesund <u>bist</u>	, ist wichtig.
Ob du gesund <u>bist</u>	, weiß ich nicht.

(This example with the subordinate clause in P1 only occurs rarely.)

SUMMARY

- Dass-clauses are clause complements. Without them, the sentence doesn't make sense at all.
- The verb is at the end.
- They are used for expressing feelings/opinions/ judgments/thoughts/knowledge and for indirect speech.
- A dass-clause expresses relative certainty about what the speaker is saying.
- Uncertainty can be expressed with "ob".

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