

Prefix Verbs Explained - "zugeben"

by German-is-easy - Wednesday, March 15, 2017

<https://yourdailygerman.com/zugeben-zugabe-meaning/>

Hello everyone,

a welcome to a new episode of Prefix Verbs Explained, the longest and "gee-how-many-more-are-there"-est series ever; this time with a look at the meaning of

zugeben

And this one is gonna be super uber mega short because ***zugeben*** is essentially a German learner's wet dream come true. Why? Because it only has one oh..., hold on, I see we have a call here, hello German is Easy, you're on the air.

"Hi Emanuel, so zugeben is Magic Mike Channing Tatum naked on a unicorn??? Because I'm a German learner and that's my wet dream."

Oh... uh... no, it's not.

"Taylor Swift?"

NO! It's so cool because it has only one meaning.

"Well, thanks a lot for getting me all excited for nothing (hangs up)."

Well... I'm sorry. I'm sorry that ***zugeben*** is not Magic Mike Channing Tatum and not Taylor Swift. It does have something to do with guilty pleasures, though.

Or with *guilty* in general, because ***zugeben*** is the German word for ***to admit***.

- Du hast mein Bier getrunken, ***gib's zu!***
- You drank my beer, ***admit it!***

- Komm, du musst ***zugeben***, dass mein Gesang schon besser geworden ist.
- Come on, you have to ***admit*** that my singing did improve.

- "Du weißt nicht, ob sie wirklich heimlich deine Whatsapp-Nachrichten nachgeguckt hat."

"Doch, sie hat's ja **zugegeben**."

"Oh... "

- "You don't know if she really secretly read your WhatsApp messages."

"I actually do because she **admitted** it."

"Oh..."

Does this meaning for zugeben make sense? Well, kind of. The English **admit** is based on the Latin verb for **to put (mittere)** combined with the prefix a(d)- which expresses toward-ness. So literally, it is "to put to(ward)". **Zugeben** is pretty the same, just that it's with giving instead of putting; you "*give to*" the accuser, if you will. Admittedly, it's not super obvious, but not completely lunatic, either. Speaking of admittedly... let's look at some examples for the related words :).

- **Zugegeben**, das hier ist nicht gerade 3 Sterne Küche, aber es macht satt.
- **Granted**, this isn't 3 star cuisine, but it fills you up.

- 100 Euro für eine Boxershorts ist **zugegebenermaßen** nicht billig, aber der Tragecomfort ist es wert.
- 100 Euro for a pair of boxers **admittedly** isn't cheap but the wearing comfort is worth it.

And then there's the noun **die Zugabe** and this one actually has a different meaning than the verb. I mean... I guess it technically can mean **admission** (as in *admission of guilt*, NOT as admission to a museum or so). But the use for **Zugabe** is... at concerts. **Zugabe** is what people shout, when they want more.

- **Zugabe! Zugabe!**
- **Encore! Encore!**

At it's core, **Zugabe** is about *adding something* and besides concerts you can also find it in the context of cooking.

- Die Milch wird nun langsam **unter Zugabe** von Stärke erhitzt.
- The milk is now to be slowly heated up **while adding** starch.

And that kitchen example brings us right to what we've been waiting for. Exactly... the... oh hold on, there's another call. Let's take that real quick. Hello, German is Easy, you're speaking with Emanuel, what

can I do for you?

"Hey Emanuel, it's me again. Do you mean that kitchen examples brings us right to the sushi I ordered 45 minutes ago? Because that is no doubt what I am waiting for desperately... (hangs up) "

Uh... no, it doesn't bring us to your Sushi. I meant the ... uh... versions. The versions do have, in some way, something to do with Sushi, though because they sound Japanese: *hinzu-version* and *dazu-version*.

hinzugeben, dazugeben

Verbs with *zu-* as a prefix don't have an r-version. That's kind of to be expected since, unless you're an Alien reptile, *rzu-* is hard to pronounce. But there's also not a *her-* version for zu-verbs. "*herzu*" just never ever really was a thing. No idea why. Anyway, zu-verbs do usually have a *hin-version* and a *da-version* and they're more or less the same as the r-version in that they're a very literal, location-focused take on the prefix-verb-combo. So both, *hinzugeben* and *dazugeben* are about the idea of *giving, adding something to something*. As usual, the *hinzu-* version is a bit formal sounding and you'll mostly see it in cook books. *Dazugeben* is more common in daily life.

- Den Koriander sollte man erst ganz am Ende *hinzugeben (dazugeben)*, da er sonst sein Aroma verliert.
- The cilantro shouldn't be *added* until the very end because it'll lose its aroma otherwise. *(I know that some of you are now like "Awesome, so right in the beginning then" ;)*

- "Wow, krasse Wohnung. Ist die nicht super teuer?"
"Ja, ich kann das nur machen, weil meine Eltern mir was *dazugeben*."
- "Wow, crazy apartment. Isn't that super expensive?"
"Yeah, I can only do that because my parents *pitch in*."

- Wir wollen John was zum Geburtstag kaufen. Willst du was *dazugeben*?
- We want to get John something for his birthday. Do you want to *pitch in*?

The really idiomatic term for adding stuff while cooking is *ranmachen* (I'll add a link to the article on that below), so this use of pitching in money is probably the most common context for *dazugeben*. Well, except for this one very, very common idiom. If you know a bit about German "cuisine" then you'll know that there's one thing Germans LOVE to add to stuff...

exactly!! Senf. Mustard.

Bratwurst mit Senf, Senfeier, Senfuccino™, Senfweizen... adding mustard is a very German thing to do and so it's only fitting that it ended up in a very common idiom for another very German thing to do: always giving your little token of wisdom, your two cents to everything, even and ESPECIALLY if nobody gives a sh... oh, hold on, there's another call, hello you're on the air.

"Hey yeah, me again... so this is basically what I did today, right? Ich habe meinen Senf dazugegeben."

Uh... yeah, actually, yes. That's exactly what it is.

"You're welcome for the practical example, then. Gotta go, my Sushi's here."

Uh... thank you, I guess. I... I'm confused. By the way, did you know Wasabi is a similar thing to mustard? Meh, anyways, let's do one quick example for Senf dazugeben and wrap up.

- Leute, die zu allem *ihren Senf dazugeben*, können echt anstrengend sein.
- People, who feel the need to *comment on everything*, can be really exhausting.

And that's it for today. This was our look at *zugeben* which is the German word for *to admit*.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions just leave me a comment. And if you just want to give your Senf to it, you're welcome too :).

I hope you liked it and see you next time.

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Further reading:

- [Prefix Verbs Explained - "anmachen" \(ranmachen\)](#)

**** zugeben - fact sheet ****

meaning:

to admit (NOT in sense of entrance)

to add (rare)

past:

form of "haben" + zugegeben

gab zu

related words:

die Zugabe - the addition (rare), the encore (for concerts and similar stuff)

hinzugeben, dazugeben - add something to something