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## 16 Sechzehnte Lektion [zekHtsehntuh lektslohn]

## Warum vergeht die Zeit so schnell?

- 1 Um wie viel Uhr fährt dein Zug ab ①?
- 2 In drei Minuten, um sechzehn Uhr achtzehn ②, Gleis zwölf.
- 3 Das ist hier.
- 4 Komm, steig schnell ein 3!
- 5 "Achtung ⊕ an Gleis zwölf, die Türen schließen.

#### Pronunciation

varum fergeht dee tseit zoh shnel 1 um vee feel oo" feh"t dein tsook ap 2 in droi minoot'n um zekH-tsehn oo" akht-tsehn gleis tsvelf 3 das ist hee" 4 kom shtelk shnel ein 5 akhtung an gleis tsvœlf dee tewruhn shleess'n

#### Notes

- ① fahren to drive, to go by train, car or other means of transport (but not on foot!); abfahren to leave, to depart, to take off.

  The separable prefix ab often expresses a sense of detachment, distance or removal from something. Note that the vowel a in the verb stem changes to ä in the second- and third-person singular: du fährst, er/sie/es fährt. The other present-tense forms are entirely regular: ich fahre, etc.
- ② German numbers from 13 to 19 follow a similar pattern to English. They are formed by adding -zehn (ten) to the appropriate number: dreizehn ('three-ten' = thirteen), vierzehn, etc. For more information on numbers, take a quick glance at review lesson 21. Note that 'am' and 'pm' are not used. The 24-hour clock is the norm for timetables and official schedules, while the 12-hour clock is often used in everyday language. So, 4 pm would be sechzehn Uhr ('sixteen clock') ▶

67 • siebenundsechzig [zeeb'nunt-zekHtsikH]

## Sixteenth lesson 16

# Why does time pass (Why passes the time) so quickly?

- 1 What time does your train leave? (At how much clock leaves your[informal sing.] train?)
- 2 In three minutes, at sixteen (clock) eighteen, [on] platform twelve.
- 3 That's here.
- 4 Come, get in quickly (get quickly in)!
- 5 "Attention at platform twelve, the doors are

## **Pronunciation note**

1, 4, 6 Note that in spoken German, the stress falls on the separable prefix, as we see in these sentences with the verbs abfahren and einsteigen: Der Zug fährt ab, steigen Sie bitte ein! This is because the prefix determines the meaning of the verb

- or vier Uhr ('four clock'). In order to express an exact time, you need the word um: um füntzehn Uhr at three o'clock ('at fifteen clock'). The same holds true for asking the time: Um wie viel Uhr? At what time? ('At how much clock?').
- ③ This dialogue has several examples of the second-person singular informal imperative ('du-imperative'), as it's a conversation between a couple. It is formed by dropping the final-en from the infinitive: Komm! Come! Steig ein! Get on! Board! (e.g. the train). One could add a final-e to the verb here, but this is increasingly left out. The opposite of einsteigen is aussteigen. Steig aus! Get off! Alight! See how important the separable prefix is?
- die Achtung the attention is synonymous with die Vorsicht when trying to direct someone's attention to a possible danger. Achtung! or Vorsicht! Careful!

achtundsechzig [akhtunt-zekHtsikH] • 68

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