

## **Aus Christian Köchlings Tagebuch**

*Christian Köchling hat in Dresden Goldschmiedearbeit gelernt und hat dann vier Jahre lang für einen Leipziger Goldschmied gearbeitet. 1929 ist er arbeitslos geworden, und im Sommer 1930 ist er nach Kanada ausgewandert. Die folgenden Auszüge aus Christians Tagebuch zeigen, was für ein hartes Leben viele Auswanderer hatten.*

Bremen, d. 28. 6. 1930

Nach langer, schöner Bahnfahrt durch den Harz über Hannover endlich in Bremen angekommen. Ganz Europa ist hier vertreten, doch die Mehrzahl sind Deutsche- Handwerker, Kaufleute, Ingenieure u. Landwirte. Nicht alle reisen wie wir nach Canada .

An Bord der Karlsruhe (name of the ship), den 4. 7. 30

Habe in Bremen mit Hunderten von Menschen in Lloyds Auswandererheim gewohnt. Sind am 1. Juli früh morgens nach Bremerhaven gefahren und dort sofort aufs Schiff gegangen. Zuerst wunderbares Wetter, aber im Englischen Kanal ist es stürmisch geworden, und wir waren alle seekrank.

Im Zug von Montreal nach Toronto, den 16. 7. 30

Sind am 11. 7. in Halifax angekommen und waren nach 29-stündiger Zugfahrt endlich in Montreal. Die neue Welt hat uns nicht sehr freundlich empfangen. In Montreal haben wir überall gehört: "Was wollt ihr denn hier? Wir haben doch selbst keine Arbeit.« Warum hat man uns das nicht gleich in Deutschland gesagt? In Toronto soll es besser sein. Sind deshalb heute früh gleich weitergefahren. Habe nur noch 25 Dollar, denn Montreal war sehr teuer: \$1. für eine Übernachtung mit Frühstück! Hoffentlich brauchen sie in Toronto einen guten Goldschmied.

Watford, den 7. 8. 30 (Sonntag), bei Farmer Robertson

Arbeite schon über eine Woche auf einer Farm bei Watford, denn in Toronto war es auch nicht besser als in Montreal. War fast zwei Wochen in Toronto und hatte nur noch 4 Dollar. Habe gehört, bei London braucht man im Spätsommer viele Farmarbeiter. Bin deshalb nach London gefahren und habe gleich Arbeit gefunden. Aber was für eine Arbeit für einen Goldschmied! Mist laden von morgens bis abends, und nur fürs Essen und ein schlechtes Bett! Bin aber doch Gott dankbar, daß ich wenigstens nicht hungern muß.

## **From Christian Köchling's diary**

*Christian Köchling was apprenticed as a goldsmith in Dresden and then worked for a goldsmith from Leipzig for four years. In 1929 he lost his job and in the summer of 1930 he immigrated to Canada. The following excerpts from Christian's diary show the hard life many of the immigrants experienced.*

Bremen, 28th of June 1930

After a long and beautiful trip by train through the Harz mountains by way of Hannover, we have finally arrived in Bremen. All of Europe is represented, but the majority are German - craftsmen, merchants, engineers and farmers. Not everyone is travelling to Canada like we are.

On board of the Karlsruhe (name of the ship) 4th of July 1930

I lived in Lloyds Home for Immigrants in Bremen with hundreds of people. Early on the first of July, we went to Bremerhaven and boarded the ship immediately. First the weather was wonderful, but in the English channel it became stormy, and we all were seasick.

On the train from Montreal to Toronto, 16th of July 1930

We arrived on the 11th of July in Halifax and after a 29 hour train ride finally arrived in Montreal. The new world did not welcome us in a friendly manner. Everywhere in Montreal we heard: "What are you doing here? We don't have any work either." Why didn't somebody tell us that back in Germany? It should be better in Toronto. That's why we left early this morning and continued on. I only have 25 Dollars left, because Montreal was very expensive: \$1 for one night lodging with breakfast! Hopefully, they will need a good goldsmith in Toronto.

Watford, 7th of August 1930 (Sunday), at Farmer Robinson's

Have been working on a farm in Watford for over a week, because Toronto wasn't any better than Montreal. I was in Toronto for almost two weeks and only had 4 Dollars left. I heard that many farmhands would be needed near London during the late summer. That's why I went to London and immediately found work. But what work for a goldsmith! I am shoveling manure (dung, rubbish) from morning till night, and only for food and a bad bed! Still am grateful to God that I do not have to starve at least.

# Theme: Memories and Personal Narratives

## Vocabulary: Adverbs of Time

im + months, seasons	im August, im Sommer
vor / nach + Dative	vor/nach dem Krieg
vor can mean ago	vor 10 Jahren, vor einem Monat
am + specific date or day	am 11.11.2011; am Freitag
zwischen + dative	zwischen dem 5. Und 7.11
seit + dative	seit einem Jahr

**Exercise 1: Adverbs of Time:** Ask a partner about when he or she did something.

*Partner A: When was Stefan at a party?*

*Partner B: He was at a party on Friday.*

*Partner A: When were you at a party?*

*Partner B: I was at a party one month ago.*

### Partner A

	Hans	your partner
was at a party	?	?
saw a film	two weeks ago	?
read a good book	?	?

### Partner B

	Hans	your partner
was at a party	on Friday	?
saw a film	?	?
read a good book	in July	?

**Activity 2: Textual Analysis.** Write a few key words from the text.

	Enter in some facts from the text
What	
When	
Who	
Where	
How/Why	
Other Details	

**Activity 3: What do you think?** Look again at the text. What stands out?

1. What kind of text is it?
2. Which tenses are used? Present? Preterit? Present Perfect? Where?
3. Does the author use many adjectives? Why or why not?
4. Does the author use many verbs? Why or why not?
5. Underline the time phrases: where do they show up?
6. How are feelings expressed? Pay attention not only to adjectives, but other ways that a text can express emotions.

**Activity 4: Diary Entry**

Your assignment is to write a diary entry in which you chronicle an important period in your life. Using the twentieth-century diary of German immigrant Christian Köchling as a model, offer in the short prose form of a journal entry a log of your experiences and feelings.

**Phase 1:** Choose a significant period in your life. This may be a span of days, weeks, or months. Did you travel to a foreign country? Take part in a competition? Move-in day at WFU?

**Phase 2:** What vocabulary words or expressions do you need for writing your journal entries? On the accompanying table, write down new words and phrases.

**Phase 3:** Write down the events of the story in bullet points. Tell the story chronologically. Make sure you adhere to the conventions of the genre:

- As in the diary of Christian Köchling and other journal entries, make sure you begin by situating your story in time and space (when/where). Take particular note of how dates are written in German.
- Note that in Köchling's entry, as is often the case in diaries, brevity trumps flowing prose style. For example:
  - The pronoun is sometimes omitted. "Went to the store" vs. "I went to the store."
  - Noun phrases and verb phrases are often stripped of the stylistic packaging usually seen in other prose narratives. "People everywhere" vs. "There were/I saw" people everywhere.

### Activity 5: Personal Narrative

As an offshoot of the diary assignment, students might write an essay. This would mean taking their journal entry and reformulating it into flowing narrative prose with the appropriate adverbs of time and introductory phrases below.

Als ich ein Kind war, ...	When I was a child, ....
Im Alter von (sechs Jahren)...	At the age of (six) ...
Ich kann mich noch gut daran erinnern, dass ...	I can remember well, when ...
Das war ein Wendepunkt in meinem Leben.	That was a turning point in my life.
Während meiner Kindheit/Schulzeit ...	During my childhood/ time at school ...

**Phase 1:** Topic of the Diary excerpt: \_\_\_\_\_

**Phase 2:** Collecting necessary vocabulary

<b>Important words</b>		<b>Chronology</b>
<b>Nouns</b>	<b>Adjectives</b>	<b>Dates, Adverbs of Time</b>

**The Storm (The Story of Herr Sommer (pages 32-36))**

**Narrating an anecdote**

An anecdote is a narration about a comical or unexpected event. It is important to characterize the experienced event in detail. Sometimes also amusing persons are involved, with whom one shares an event. These persons also need an in detail characterization. At the end of the anecdote there is usually a punch line, which stands in stark contrast with the narration leading up to it. Eine Anekdote ist eine Erzählung eines komischen oder ungewöhnlichen Ereignisses. Pointe.

Let's have a look at how the narrator in The Story of Herr Sommer experienced an incredible, once-in-a-lifetime storm...

**I.** The episode is structured on the one hand through expressions of time, but on the other also through the quick changes in weather patterns. Complete the table with information from the episode and try to re-tell the episode..

<b>Expressions of Time</b>	<b>Weather</b>	<b>What happened?</b>
Just a single time It happened on a Sunday afternoon at the end of July during an horrendous storm.	And the day had begun so beautifully, brilliantly beautiful, and there was hardly any cloud in the sky.	I had heard a single sentence from Herr Sommer.
like so often on Sundays, because he went every Sunday		he took me to the horse races

**II.** Metaphors and comparisons depict the weather patterns in a more visually appealing way. Furthermore, the narrator uses many adjectives to illustrate the weather. Collect these stylistic elements in the table below.

Natural Phenomena Weather	Visual Expression Metaphor/Comparison	How is the weather characterized?
Storm hardly a cloud in the sky		horrendous so hot
layer of dust		
clouds	covered the horizon like a curtain	

**III. Perception: Constructions indicating physical perceptions**

Please collect information about how the narrator (and his father) experience and react to the weather.

<p>that still rings in my ear</p> <p>that I never went through another storm like that</p>
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**IV. How does the episode end? What is the punch line?**

What do the narrator and his father discover in this unbelievable situation?

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## V. Writing Assignment

The weather affects all of us, especially in New Hampshire, where a 20-minute drive to work can result in four different weather patterns on the way. Please write **an impressive episode** from your life that was a result of the weather. Write this anecdote **for students who might want to apply to our school** to prepare them for what is in store in the winter. The episode can last a couple of minutes, a couple of days or even weeks. Structure your anecdote by working with **adverbs of time** to give the reader a better orientation through your text. To help the reader's visual imagination, **please use metaphors and comparisons**, as well as many adjectives. In order to inspire identification with and sympathy for your experience, **describe how you perceived the weather changes**, what you did and how you reacted. Don't forget to write an ending. What happened in the end?

### **Contents:**

- short amusing narration about an event that is influenced by the weather
- detailed, visual depiction of weather phenomena
- depiction of your actions during and reactions to the weather
- punchline: something incredible happens at the end; maybe contrast to the weather

### **Language Focus:**

Discourse-Level: describing weather patterns through metaphors and comparisons; chronological narration structured by weather changes and time expressions; constructions expressing physical experiences

Sentence-Level: Temporal subordinate clauses with verbs at the end of the sentence; story written in the simple past tense

Lexical-Level: visual adjectives with adjective endings; weather vocabulary; adverbs of time