

C. Analyzing Modal Particle Usage

Answer Key 2: Analyzing Modal Particles in Context: *ja*

I. 1. The subject is expressed:

- a) in line 19 by a noun (*Kinder*) and in line 24 by a noun phrase (*die anderen Mädels*)
 - b) in all other lines the subject is expressed by pronouns:
 - personal pronouns *Du, wir, Ihr, ich* (lines 15-17, 20-22),
 - demonstrative pronoun *das* (line 18),
 - indefinite pronoun *man* (line 23),
 - impersonal pronoun *es* (line 25)
2. The MP *ja* occurs in declarative sentences: statements (e.g. line 17) and exclamations (e.g. line 18).
3. The MP *ja* immediately follows:
- a) the subject in lines 17, 21, 25
 - b) the finite verb in lines 16, 18-20, 24
4. The word order in these clauses is:
- a) inverted (object – verb – subject)
 - b) direct (subject – verb – object)
5. A general rule for the syntactic position of the modal particle *ja* based on 3 and 4 can be formulated as follows:
In clauses with a direct word order, the MP *ja* immediately follows the finite verb. In clauses with an inverted word order, the MP *ja* immediately follows the subject.
6. Based on lines 15, 22, 23, the rule in 5 can be supplemented as follows:
The modal particle *ja* cannot precede a pronoun.

II. 1. The pattern can be completed as follows:

Das + ist + ja + Attribute

2. This pattern expresses an appraisal of a fact discussed in the preceding conversation and an assumption that the conversation partner agrees with the speaker.