

B2

MEETINGS & STATUS UPDATES

MONOLOG · 4 MIN.

Admitting That Your Estimate Was Too Optimistic · *Podcast*

Six weeks estimated, ten needed: an IT team lead corrects his estimate before the steering group — openly, precisely, without excuses.

Listen to the episode +
comprehension test:

<https://www.englisch-lehrer.com/podcasts/admitting-that-your-estimate-was-too-optimistic>

NAME

DATE

BRICK 1 · LEARN THE KEY PHRASES



Read the eight phrases with meaning and example. You will hear all of them in the episode.

ENGLISH	DEUTSCH	EXAMPLE
too optimistic	zu optimistisch (Standardformel für zu knappe Schätzungen)	<i>My original estimate was too optimistic — we need four more weeks.</i>
to get straight to the point	direkt zum Punkt kommen	<i>I will get straight to the point: we need more time.</i>
legacy data	Altdaten (aus dem Vorgängersystem)	<i>Cleaning the legacy data took longer than the migration itself.</i>
to allow for	einplanen, mit etwas rechnen	<i>We allowed for two weeks of testing in the schedule.</i>
buffer	Puffer, Zeitreserve	<i>The new estimate includes a buffer of one full week.</i>
conservative	vorsichtig (kalkuliert)	<i>Ten weeks is a conservative estimate — we may finish earlier.</i>
a second pair of eyes	eine zweite Person, die gegenprüft	<i>Every estimate now gets a second pair of eyes before the board sees it.</i>
to take questions	Fragen entgegennehmen	<i>I will present for ten minutes and then take questions.</i>

BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS



Complete the missing word from the conversation.

calculated

allowed

counted

reckoned

conservative

convenient

considerable

consecutive

- 01 In English: I _____ for two weeks of testing.
- 02 The new estimate is ten _____ one: it includes a buffer of one full week, and it assumes the developers at sixty per cent availability, not eighty.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?



Tick one. T = true, F = false.

- 01 The new estimate of ten weeks includes a buffer of one full week. T ☐ F ☐
- 02 Moving the marketing campaign will cause significant extra costs. T ☐ F ☐

BRICK 4 · ORDER



Number the steps of the conversation (1–5).

- 01 ☐ He describes what he will change and invites questions
- 02 ☐ He states the facts: week five, sixty per cent done
- 03 ☐ He presents the new, conservative ten-week estimate
- 04 ☐ Michael announces openly that his estimate was too optimistic
- 05 ☐ He explains the three reasons the estimate went wrong

BRICK 5 · YOUR VERSION



Write two sentences of your own using phrases from Brick 1.

MINI-CHECK – CAN I DO THIS YET?

- ☐ I can announce a delay politely.
- ☐ I can propose an alternative.
- ☐ I can promise written confirmation.

Listened twice and ticked everything? Then you are ready for the real conversation.

Cut-out flashcards

× Cut out, fold on the line – English in front, German on the back. Or practise digitally:

<https://www.englisch-lehrer.com/podcasts/admitting-that-your-estimate-was-too-optimistic>

too optimistic

My original estimate was too optimistic — we need four more weeks.

zu optimistisch (Standardformel für zu knappe Schätzungen)

to get straight to the point

I will get straight to the point: we need more time.

direkt zum Punkt kommen

legacy data

Cleaning the legacy data took longer than the migration itself.

Altdateien (aus dem Vorgängersystem)

to allow for

We allowed for two weeks of testing in the schedule.

einplanen, mit etwas rechnen

buffer

The new estimate includes a buffer of one full week.

Puffer, Zeitreserve

conservative

Ten weeks is a conservative estimate — we may finish earlier.

vorsichtig (kalkuliert)

a second pair of eyes

Every estimate now gets a second pair of eyes before the board sees it.

eine zweite Person, die gegenprüft

to take questions

I will present for ten minutes and then take questions.

Fragen entgegennehmen

Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why**.

BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS

01 **allowed**

German trap: "mit zwei Wochen rechnen" is "to allow for two weeks", not "to calculate with two weeks" — a word-for-word translation.

02 **conservative**

A "conservative estimate" is a deliberately cautious one — the opposite of "too optimistic".

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?

01 **True**

True — the conservative ten-week estimate includes a one-week buffer and assumes sixty per cent availability.

02 **False**

False — the campaign can be moved without extra cost if the new date is confirmed today.

BRICK 4 · ORDER

01 **1.** Michael announces openly that his estimate was too optimistic

02 **2.** He states the facts: week five, sixty per cent done

03 **3.** He explains the three reasons the estimate went wrong

04 **4.** He presents the new, conservative ten-week estimate

05 **5.** He describes what he will change and invites questions

KEEP PRACTISING LIVE

Want to practise these phrases in a real conversation?

Online lessons with real teachers — English training since 2004 · Berlin · Hanover
· Online.

CALL US

+49 511 95733819