

B2

MEETINGS & STATUS UPDATES

MONOLOG · 4 MIN.

Challenging a Status Report That Sounds Too Positive · Podcast

All green, no risks? How to challenge an overly positive status report in English — without attacking anyone.

Listen to the episode +
comprehension test:

<https://www.englisch-lehrer.com/podcasts/challenging-a-status-report-that-sounds-too-positive>

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
steering meeting	Lenkungsausschuss-Sitzung	<i>The budget change needs approval in the next steering meeting.</i>
on schedule	im Zeitplan	<i>The migration is still on schedule for the March release.</i>
a red flag	ein Warnsignal	<i>A report with zero open risks is often a red flag.</i>
to challenge	hinterfragen, anzweifeln	<i>It is your job to challenge numbers that look too good.</i>
evidence	Belege, Nachweise	<i>Can you show me the evidence behind that green status?</i>
to walk someone through	jemandem etwas Schritt für Schritt erklären	<i>Could you walk me through the test results?</i>
to miss the date	den Termin verfehlen	<i>If the data arrives late, we will miss the date.</i>
by Friday	bis (spätestens) Freitag – Frist	<i>Please send the corrected report by Friday.</i>



BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS



Complete the missing word from the conversation.

miss

lose

fail

drop

until

by

till

to

01 What would have to go wrong for us to _____ the date?

02 We will have the tests ready _____ Friday.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?



Tick one. T = true, F = false.

01 Daniel knew from the ticket system that testing had not started.

T ☐ F ☐

02 Daniel recommends saying "That is not true" in English meetings.

T ☐ F ☐

BRICK 4 · ORDER



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

01 ☐ They agree on a written test plan by Wednesday

02 ☐ Daniel asks to be walked through the numbers

03 ☐ The project lead admits the test environment is not ready

04 ☐ The supplier presents an all-green status report

05 ☐ Daniel asks what would have to go wrong to miss the date

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/challenging-a-status-report-that-sounds-too-positive>

steering meeting

The budget change needs approval in the next steering meeting.

Lenkungsausschuss-Sitzung

on schedule

The migration is still on schedule for the March release.

im Zeitplan

a red flag

A report with zero open risks is often a red flag.

ein Warnsignal

to challenge

It is your job to challenge numbers that look too good.

hinterfragen, anzweifeln

evidence

Can you show me the evidence behind that green status?

Belege, Nachweise

to walk someone through

Could you walk me through the test results?

jemandem etwas Schritt für Schritt erklären

to miss the date

If the data arrives late, we will miss the date.

den Termin verfehlen

by Friday

Please send the corrected report by Friday.

bis (spätestens) Freitag – Frist

Answer key

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

BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS

01 **miss**

"To miss the date/deadline" is the fixed phrase for failing to meet a deadline.

02 **by**

False friend! German "bis" as a deadline is "by". "Until" describes a period continuing up to a point.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?

01 **True**

True — he knew from the ticket system that testing had not even started, so report and reality did not match.

02 **False**

False — "That is not true" sounds like a personal attack in English. Question the report, not the person.

BRICK 4 · ORDER

01 **1.** The supplier presents an all-green status report

02 **2.** Daniel asks to be walked through the numbers

03 **3.** Daniel asks what would have to go wrong to miss the date

04 **4.** The project lead admits the test environment is not ready

05 **5.** They agree on a written test plan by Wednesday

KEEP PRACTISING LIVE

Want to practise these phrases in a real conversation?

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