

B2

MEETINGS & STATUS UPDATES

DIALOG · 4 MIN.

Correcting "I Became the Documents" Before Everyone Gets Confused · Podcast

"I became the documents" — the classic bekommen/become mistake, corrected kindly before it happens in front of the client tomorrow.

Listen to the episode +
comprehension test:

<https://www.englisch-lehrer.com/podcasts/correcting-i-became-the-documents-before-everyone-gets-confused>

NAME

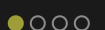
DATE

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
false friend	falscher Freund (ähnliches Wort, andere Bedeutung)	<i>Bekommen and become are the most famous German-English false friends.</i>
to receive	erhalten, bekommen (förmlich)	<i>I received the signed contract this morning.</i>
to turn into	sich verwandeln in	<i>The small side project turned into a full product line.</i>
liability cap	Haftungsobergrenze	<i>Legal wants the liability cap raised to 250,000 euros.</i>
notice period	Kündigungsfrist	<i>The notice period in the draft is three months.</i>
to circulate	in Umlauf bringen, an alle verteilen	<i>Please circulate the final wording before the meeting.</i>
attention to detail	Sorgfalt, Genauigkeit	<i>Contract work is all about attention to detail.</i>
Could we have the bill, please?	„Könnten wir bitte die Rechnung haben?“	<i>At the end of a business lunch, say: "Could we have the bill, please?"</i>



BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS

Complete the missing word from the conversation.

became

received

becomed

overcame

get

become

take

make

01 So, take two: _____ the documents yesterday afternoon, and I have reviewed the first hundred
I _____ pages.

02 They want the cap raised from one hundred thousand to two hundred _____ their final wording
and fifty thousand euros, and I _____ by Friday.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?

Tick one. T = true, F = false.

01 Emma explains that "to become" means to turn into something.

T ☐ F ☐

02 Legal wants to lower the liability cap to one hundred thousand euros.

T ☐ F ☐

BRICK 4 · ORDER

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

01 ☐ They return to the liability cap and the next steps

02 ☐ Emma explains that become means to turn into something

03 ☐ They practise the restaurant example with the bill

04 ☐ Stefan says "I became the documents"

05 ☐ Stefan repeats his update with the correct verb

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/correcting-i-became-the-documents-before-everyone-gets-confused>

false friend

Bekommen and become are the most famous German-English false friends.

falscher Freund (ähnliches Wort, andere Bedeutung)

to receive

I received the signed contract this morning.

erhalten, bekommen (förmlich)

to turn into

The small side project turned into a full product line.

sich verwandeln in

liability cap

Legal wants the liability cap raised to 250,000 euros.

Haftungsobergrenze

notice period

The notice period in the draft is three months.

Kündigungsfrist

to circulate

Please circulate the final wording before the meeting.

in Umlauf bringen, an alle verteilen

attention to detail

Contract work is all about attention to detail.

Sorgfalt, Genauigkeit

Could we have the bill, please?

At the end of a business lunch, say: "Could we have the bill, please?"

"Könnten wir bitte die Rechnung haben?"

Answer key

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

BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS

01 **received**

German trap: "bekommen" is "to receive / to get", never "to become" (= werden). "Becomed" does not exist at all.

02 **get**

"I get their final wording" — in spoken business English, "to get" is the natural verb for "bekommen". "Become" would be the trap again.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?

01 **True**

True — she says "to become means to turn into something", with the image of Stefan turning into 300 pages of legal text.

02 **False**

False — they want the cap raised from 100,000 to 250,000 euros, not lowered.

BRICK 4 · ORDER

- 01 **1.** Stefan says "I became the documents"
- 02 **2.** Emma explains that become means to turn into something
- 03 **3.** Stefan repeats his update with the correct verb
- 04 **4.** They practise the restaurant example with the bill
- 05 **5.** They return to the liability cap and the next steps

KEEP PRACTISING LIVE

Want to practise these phrases in a real conversation?

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· Online.

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