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MEETINGS & STATUS UPDATES

MONOLOG · 5 MIN.

Presenting an Honest Recovery Plan After a Major Project Failure · *Podcast*

A major project has failed — how to present an honest recovery plan to the steering committee without losing your credibility.

Listen to the episode +
comprehension test:

<https://www.englisch-lehrer.com/podcasts/presenting-an-honest-recovery-plan-after-a-major-project-failure>

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
recovery plan	Sanierungs-/Wiederanlaufplan nach einem Fehlschlag	<i>The board asked for a recovery plan by the end of the week.</i>
to take full ownership	die volle Verantwortung übernehmen	<i>She took full ownership of the delayed launch in front of the client.</i>
root cause	eigentliche Ursache, Grundursache	<i>The root cause was a compressed test phase, not the software itself.</i>
corrective actions	Korrekturmassnahmen	<i>Each corrective action has an owner and a deadline.</i>
milestones	Meilensteine	<i>We review the milestones with the committee every two weeks.</i>
contingency	Notfallplan, Plan B	<i>There is a contingency in place if the migration slips.</i>
to overpromise	zu viel versprechen	<i>Do not overpromise just to calm the room.</i>
credibility	Glaubwürdigkeit	<i>After a failure, credibility is the only currency you have left.</i>

BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS

Complete the missing word from the conversation.

eventually

possibly

actually

finally

contingency

milestone

budget

committee

01 And where we were genuinely uncertain: "We may _____ need a second test cycle."

02 A recovery plan without a _____ is just optimism in a nicer suit.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?

Tick one. T = true, F = false.

01 Martin opened his presentation by taking full responsibility for the failure.

T ☐ F ☐

02 The steering committee rejected the recovery plan at first.

T ☐ F ☐

BRICK 4 · ORDER

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

01 ☐ The committee approves the plan

02 ☐ Naming the root causes precisely

03 ☐ Listing milestones with owners and contingencies

04 ☐ Taking full ownership of the failure

05 ☐ Presenting corrective actions with hard commitments

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/presenting-an-honest-recovery-plan-after-a-major-project-failure>

recovery plan

The board asked for a recovery plan by the end of the week.

Sanierungs-/Wiederaufbauplan nach einem
Fehlschlag

root cause

The root cause was a compressed test phase, not the software itself.

eigentliche Ursache, Grundursache

milestones

We review the milestones with the committee every two weeks.

Meilensteine

to overpromise

Do not overpromise just to calm the room.

zu viel versprechen

to take full ownership

She took full ownership of the delayed launch in front of the client.

die volle Verantwortung übernehmen

corrective actions

Each corrective action has an owner and a deadline.

Korrekturmaßnahmen

contingency

There is a contingency in place if the migration slips.

Notfallplan, Plan B

credibility

After a failure, credibility is the only currency you have left.

Glaubwürdigkeit

Answer key

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

BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS

01 **possibly**

"Eventuell" is "possibly" in English — "eventually" means "definitely, at some point" and would sound like a promise.

02 **contingency**

A "contingency" is the backup plan every critical milestone needs.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?

01 **True**

True — his opening line was that the failure happened on his watch and he takes full responsibility.

02 **False**

False — the committee approved the plan that Friday because it was verifiable.

BRICK 4 · ORDER

01 **1.** Taking full ownership of the failure

02 **2.** Naming the root causes precisely

03 **3.** Presenting corrective actions with hard commitments

04 **4.** Listing milestones with owners and contingencies

05 **5.** The committee approves the plan

KEEP PRACTISING LIVE

Want to practise these phrases in a real conversation?

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