

B2

MEETINGS & STATUS UPDATES

DIALOG · 4 MIN.

Resolving Conflicting Updates from Two Department Heads

· Podcast

IT reports "complete", operations reports "blocked": how to resolve conflicting status updates in English — factually and without blame.

Listen to the episode +
comprehension test:

<https://www.englisch-lehrer.com/podcasts/resolving-conflicting-updates-from-two-department-heads>

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
don't match	stimmen nicht überein, passen nicht zusammen	<i>The figures in the two reports don't match.</i>
blocking issue	Blocker, blockierendes Problem	<i>The missing licence is a blocking issue for the rollout.</i>
test environment	Testumgebung	<i>It works in the test environment but fails in production.</i>
definition problem	Definitionsproblem (unklare Begriffe)	<i>Half of our status conflicts are really a definition problem.</i>
possibly	möglicherweise, eventuell	<i>We can possibly deliver on Friday, but I cannot promise it.</i>
amber	gelb (Ampelstatus: gefährdet)	<i>The project status changed from green to amber last week.</i>
steering committee	Lenkungsausschuss	<i>The steering committee meets on the first Monday of the month.</i>
to sign off	abzeichnen, freigeben	<i>Both department heads have to sign off the final status.</i>





BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS



Complete the missing word from the conversation.

eventually

possibly

finally

actually

off

up

out

in

01 If you mean 'eventuell', the English word is ' _____ '.

02 Before the next report goes out, I'll ask both of you to sign _____ one joint status line.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?



Tick one. T = true, F = false.

01 The interface works correctly with real customer data.

T ☐ F ☐

02 Stefan asks both department heads to sign off one joint status line.

T ☐ F ☐

BRICK 4 · ORDER



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

01 ☐ They agree on one joint status line for the future

02 ☐ Petra explains why both reports are true in their own way

03 ☐ Stefan clarifies "eventually" versus "possibly"

04 ☐ Stefan presents the two contradicting updates

05 ☐ Stefan identifies a definition problem

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/resolving-conflicting-updates-from-two-department-heads>

don't match

The figures in the two reports don't match.

stimmen nicht überein, passen nicht zusammen

blocking issue

The missing licence is a blocking issue for the rollout.

Blocker, blockierendes Problem

test environment

It works in the test environment but fails in production.

Testumgebung

definition problem

Half of our status conflicts are really a definition problem.

Definitionsproblem (unklare Begriffe)

possibly

We can possibly deliver on Friday, but I cannot promise it.

möglicherweise, eventuell

amber

The project status changed from green to amber last week.

gelb (Ampelstatus: gefährdet)

steering committee

The steering committee meets on the first Monday of the month.

Lenkungsausschuss

to sign off

Both department heads have to sign off the final status.

abzeichnen, freigeben

Answer key

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

BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS

01 **possibly**

German trap: "eventually" means "in the end, for certain", not "eventuell". "Eventuell" = "possibly" or "perhaps".

02 **off**

"To sign off" means to formally approve. "Sign up" is to register, "sign in" is to log in.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?

01 **False**

False — "the moment we load real customer data, the interface fails".

02 **True**

True — from now on both sign off one joint status line before the report goes out.

BRICK 4 · ORDER

- 01 **1.** Stefan presents the two contradicting updates
- 02 **2.** Petra explains why both reports are true in their own way
- 03 **3.** Stefan identifies a definition problem
- 04 **4.** Stefan clarifies "eventually" versus "possibly"
- 05 **5.** They agree on one joint status line for the future

KEEP PRACTISING LIVE

Want to practise these phrases in a real conversation?

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