

C1 MEETINGS & STATUS UPDATES DIALOG · 5 MIN.

Responding When the CEO Questions Your Data · Podcast

The CEO challenges your numbers — in front of the whole room. How to defend your methodology in English: calm, precise and without sounding defensive.

Listen to the episode + comprehension test:

<https://www.englisch-lehrer.com/podcasts/responding-when-the-ceo-questions-your-data>

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
to walk you through	jemandem etwas Schritt für Schritt erklären	Let me walk you through the calculation before you decide.
discrepancy	Abweichung, Unstimmigkeit (zwischen Zahlen)	There is a discrepancy between the CRM export and the finance report.
to push back	höflich widersprechen, gegenhalten	I'd push back on that assumption — the data shows otherwise.
I take your point	ich verstehe und akzeptiere Ihren Einwand	I take your point — we should show both metrics.
to stand by	zu etwas stehen, etwas verteidigen	I stand by the methodology we used for the forecast.
to reconcile	abgleichen, in Übereinstimmung bringen (Zahlen, Berichte)	Finance will reconcile the two reports before the audit.
to hand	griffbereit, parat (Zahlen, Informationen)	I don't have the exact number to hand, but I'll send it today.
by end of play	bis Geschäftsschluss (heute)	You'll have the revised report by end of play.



BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS



Complete the missing word from the conversation.

discrepancy

dependency

delivery

decision

sensitive

sensible

sensual

sentimental

01 The _____ comes down to definitions.

02 So: the data is _____ , and I'll share the breakdown with you and the CFO only, by end of play.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?



Tick one. T = true, F = false.

01 Daniel gives Victoria the enterprise churn figure immediately in the meeting.

T ☐ F ☐

02 Daniel offers to reconcile the two reports with the sales team.

T ☐ F ☐

BRICK 4 · ORDER



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

01 ☐ They agree on both figures side by side next month

02 ☐ Daniel explains the definition gap between the two numbers

03 ☐ Victoria corrects "sensible data" to "sensitive data"

04 ☐ Victoria challenges the 4.2 per cent churn figure

05 ☐ Daniel offers to reconcile the reports with sales

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/responding-when-the-ceo-questions-your-data>

to walk you through

Let me walk you through the calculation before you decide.

jemandem etwas Schritt für Schritt erklären

discrepancy

There is a discrepancy between the CRM export and the finance report.

Abweichung, Unstimmigkeit (zwischen Zahlen)

to push back

I'd push back on that assumption — the data shows otherwise.

höflich widersprechen, gegenhalten

I take your point

I take your point — we should show both metrics.

ich verstehe und akzeptiere Ihren Einwand

to stand by

I stand by the methodology we used for the forecast.

zu etwas stehen, etwas verteidigen

to reconcile

Finance will reconcile the two reports before the audit.

abgleichen, in Übereinstimmung bringen
(Zahlen, Berichte)

to hand

I don't have the exact number to hand, but I'll send it today.

griffbereit, parat (Zahlen, Informationen)

by end of play

You'll have the revised report by end of play.

bis Geschäftsschluss (heute)

Answer key

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

BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS

01 **discrepancy**

"Discrepancy" = a difference between two figures that should match — the key word for any numbers debate.

02 **sensitive**

The classic trap: German "sensibel" = English "sensitive" (confidential, delicate). "Sensible" means reasonable — "sensible data" would be "reasonable data".

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?

01 **False**

False — he doesn't have it to hand and refuses to guess; he promises the breakdown by end of play.

02 **True**

True — he offers to reconcile both reports line by line with the sales team that week.

BRICK 4 · ORDER

- 01 **1.** Victoria challenges the 4.2 per cent churn figure
- 02 **2.** Daniel explains the definition gap between the two numbers
- 03 **3.** Daniel offers to reconcile the reports with sales
- 04 **4.** Victoria corrects "sensible data" to "sensitive data"
- 05 **5.** They agree on both figures side by side next month

KEEP PRACTISING LIVE

Want to practise these phrases in a real conversation?

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+49 511 95733819