

C1

MEETINGS & STATUS UPDATES

DIALOG · 5 MIN.

Surfacing a Dependency Nobody Included in the Plan · Podcast

The project plan is approved — but the key milestone depends on a vendor nobody accounted for. How to raise an overlooked dependency before it becomes a crisis.

Listen to the episode +
comprehension test:

<https://www.englisch-lehrer.com/podcasts/surfacing-a-dependency-nobody-included-in-the-plan>

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
dependency	Abhängigkeit (zwischen Aufgaben, Teams, Lieferanten)	<i>The plan hides a dependency on an external vendor.</i>
to account for	einplanen, berücksichtigen	<i>The schedule doesn't account for the vendor's lead time.</i>
to sign off	freigeben, genehmigen	<i>The director signed off on the migration plan.</i>
critical path	kritischer Pfad (Verzögerung verschiebt das Projektende)	<i>The interface specification is on the critical path.</i>
single point of failure	einzelne Schwachstelle, an der alles hängt	<i>One vendor holding the specification is a single point of failure.</i>
to escalate	eskalieren, auf höherer Ebene ansprechen	<i>We escalated the delivery date to the account director.</i>
workaround	Behelfslösung, Umgehungslösung	<i>The workaround lets us start mapping against the draft specification.</i>
lead time	Vorlaufzeit	<i>Starting early cuts the lead time roughly in half.</i>

BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS



Complete the missing word from the conversation.

dependency

discrepancy

delivery

deadline

become

receive

overcome

welcome

01 Before you sign off, Richard — there's a _____ we haven't accounted for.

02 We _____ the specification in mid-September, according to their roadmap.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?



Tick one. T = true, F = false.

01 The vendor has contractually committed to delivering the specification in mid-September.

T ☐F ☐

02 Jonas proposes starting the mapping against the draft specification as a workaround.

T ☐F ☐

BRICK 4 · ORDER



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

01 ☐ They split the actions: escalation, workaround, milestone entry

02 ☐ Jonas surfaces the unplanned vendor dependency

03 ☐ Jonas explains the impact on the critical path

04 ☐ Richard wants to sign off on the migration plan

05 ☐ Richard corrects "become" to "receive"

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/surfacing-a-dependency-nobody-included-in-the-plan>

dependency

The plan hides a dependency on an external vendor.

Abhängigkeit (zwischen Aufgaben, Teams, Lieferanten)

to account for

The schedule doesn't account for the vendor's lead time.

einplanen, berücksichtigen

to sign off

The director signed off on the migration plan.

freigeben, genehmigen

critical path

The interface specification is on the critical path.

kritischer Pfad (Verögerung verschiebt das Projektende)

single point of failure

One vendor holding the specification is a single point of failure.

einzelne Schwachstelle, an der alles hängt

to escalate

We escalated the delivery date to the account director.

eskalieren, auf höherer Ebene ansprechen

workaround

The workaround lets us start mapping against the draft specification.

Behelfslösung, Umgehungslösung

lead time

Starting early cuts the lead time roughly in half.

Vorlaufzeit

Answer key

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

BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS

01 **dependency**

"Dependency" — the model sentence for surfacing overlooked dependencies: name it before sign-off.

02 **receive**

The "bekommen" trap: "to become" means "werden" (to turn into), not "to get". You receive or get a document — otherwise you turn into a PDF.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?

01 **False**

False — the date is only a roadmap entry, "not a commitment". That is exactly why Richard is asked to escalate commercially.

02 **True**

True — the workaround (start against the draft, absorb changes later) cuts the lead time roughly in half.

BRICK 4 · ORDER

- 01 **1.** Richard wants to sign off on the migration plan
- 02 **2.** Jonas surfaces the unplanned vendor dependency
- 03 **3.** Richard corrects "become" to "receive"
- 04 **4.** Jonas explains the impact on the critical path
- 05 **5.** They split the actions: escalation, workaround, milestone entry

KEEP PRACTISING LIVE

Want to practise these phrases in a real conversation?

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· Online.

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