

B2

MEETINGS & STATUS UPDATES

MONOLOG · 4 MIN.

Why "Control the Figures" Can Sound Different from "Kontrolliere die Zahlen" · Podcast

A harmless request suddenly sounds like manipulation: why "kontrollieren" does not mean "to control" — and which verbs to use instead.

Listen to the episode +
comprehension test:

<https://www.englisch-lehrer.com/podcasts/why-control-the-figures-can-sound-different-from-kontrolliere-die-zahlen>

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 check	prüfen, kontrollieren – die Standard-Übersetzung von „kontrollieren“	<i>Could you check the invoice before we send it?</i>
to double-check	noch einmal prüfen, gegenprüfen	<i>Please double-check the totals before the meeting.</i>
to verify	verifizieren, gegen eine Quelle bestätigen (förmlich)	<i>We verified the payment against the bank statement.</i>
to review	durchsehen, begutachten (als Ganzes)	<i>Would you review the contract before it goes out?</i>
figures	Zahlen, Kennzahlen	<i>The sales figures for the third quarter look strong.</i>
to control	steuern, lenken, beherrschen – NICHT „prüfen“	<i>The new system controls the temperature in all warehouses.</i>
management accounting	Controlling (als Abteilung/Funktion)	<i>She moved from auditing into management accounting.</i>
board meeting	Vorstandssitzung, Gremiumssitzung	<i>The final figures are due before Thursday's board meeting.</i>



BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS



Complete the missing word from the conversation.

control

check

count

calculate

verify

prove

trust

01 Could you please _____ the figures before the board meeting?

02 We need to _____ the numbers against the ledger.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?



Tick one. T = true, F = false.

01 Michael wanted Susan to change the figures before the board meeting.

T ☐ F ☐

02 The German Controlling department is closest to "management accounting" in English.

T ☐ F ☐

BRICK 4 · ORDER



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

01 ☐ Susan checks the figures and they laugh about the mistake

02 ☐ Susan replies, puzzled: "Control them in what way?"

03 ☐ Michael explains the four correct verbs: check, double-check, verify, review

04 ☐ Michael emails Susan: "Could you please control the figures?"

05 ☐ A phone call reveals the misunderstanding

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/why-control-the-figures-can-sound-different-from-kontrolliere-die-zahlen>

to check

Could you check the invoice before we send it?

prüfen, kontrollieren – die Standard-Übersetzung von „kontrollieren“

to double-check

Please double-check the totals before the meeting.

noch einmal prüfen, gegenprüfen

to verify

We verified the payment against the bank statement.

verifizieren, gegen eine Quelle bestätigen (formlich)

to review

Would you review the contract before it goes out?

durchsehen, begutachten (als Ganzes)

figures

The sales figures for the third quarter look strong.

Zahlen, Kennzahlen

to control

The new system controls the temperature in all warehouses.

steuern, lenken, beherrschen – NICHT „prüfen“

management accounting

She moved from auditing into management accounting.

Controlling (als Abteilung/Funktion)

board meeting

The final figures are due before Thursday's board meeting.

Vorstandssitzung, Gremiumssitzung

Answer key

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

BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS

01 **check**

False friend! "Kontrollieren" means "to check". "To control" means to steer or dominate — here it sounds like manipulating the numbers.

02 **verify**

"To verify ... against a source" means confirming formally against a source. "Control" would be the false friend again.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?

01 **False**

False — he wanted her to check the figures. His mistaken "control" merely made the request sound that way.

02 **True**

True — in English the department is closer to management accounting: analysing costs and performance.

BRICK 4 · ORDER

01 **1.** Michael emails Susan: "Could you please control the figures?"

02 **2.** Susan replies, puzzled: "Control them in what way?"

03 **3.** A phone call reveals the misunderstanding

04 **4.** Michael explains the four correct verbs: check, double-check, verify, review

05 **5.** Susan checks the figures and they laugh about the mistake

KEEP PRACTISING LIVE

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