

B1

NEGOTIATIONS

DIALOG · 3 MIN.

Why "Eventually" Doesn't Mean "Eventuell" in a Delivery Negotiation · *Podcast*

One word, two meanings, one near-misunderstanding: why "eventually" sounds like a firm commitment in a delivery negotiation — and German "eventuell" does not.

Listen to the episode +
comprehension test:

<https://www.englisch-lehrer.com/podcasts/why-eventually-doesnt-mean-eventuell-in-a-delivery-negotiation>

NAME

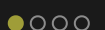
DATE

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
eventually	schließlich, irgendwann (ganz sicher) – NICHT „eventuell“	<i>After three rounds of talks, they eventually signed the contract.</i>
possibly	eventuell, möglicherweise	<i>We will possibly extend the contract next year.</i>
in stock	auf Lager	<i>The standard model is in stock and ships today.</i>
lead time	Lieferzeit, Vorlaufzeit	<i>The lead time for custom parts is six weeks.</i>
to place the order	die Bestellung aufgeben	<i>If you place the order today, we deliver in May.</i>
batch	Charge, Fertigungslos	<i>The first batch of five hundred units arrives on Monday.</i>
commitment	verbindliche Zusage	<i>A possibility is not a commitment — put commitments in writing.</i>
order confirmation	Auftragsbestätigung	<i>Please check the order confirmation before you sign it.</i>



BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS



Complete the missing word from the conversation.

possibly

eventually

eventual

finally

lead

waiting

delivery

running

01 We could _____ order a second batch in the autumn — it depends on our sales.

02 The frames are not in stock at the moment — our current _____ time is six weeks.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?



Tick one. T = true, F = false.

01 The chair frames are in stock, so they can be delivered immediately.

T ☐ F ☐

02 In the end, Rachel notes the second batch as a potential follow-up order, not a commitment.

T ☐ F ☐

BRICK 4 · ORDER



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

01 ☐ They confirm the order and the written confirmation

02 ☐ Rachel confirms delivery by the eighteenth

03 ☐ Frank restates the second batch as a possibility

04 ☐ Frank asks about the September delivery date

05 ☐ The "eventually / eventuell" misunderstanding happens

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-eventually-doesnt-mean-eventuell-in-a-delivery-negotiation>

eventually

After three rounds of talks, they eventually signed the contract.

schließlich, irgendwann (ganz sicher) – NICHT
"eventuell"

possibly

We will possibly extend the contract next year.

eventuell, möglicherweise

in stock

The standard model is in stock and ships today.

auf Lager

lead time

The lead time for custom parts is six weeks.

Lieferzeit, Vorlaufzeit

to place the order

If you place the order today, we deliver in May.

die Bestellung aufgeben

batch

The first batch of five hundred units arrives on Monday.

Charge, Fertigungslos

commitment

A possibility is not a commitment — put commitments in writing.

verbindliche Zusage

order confirmation

Please check the order confirmation before you sign it.

Auftragsbestätigung

Answer key

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

BRICK 2 · FILL THE GAPS

01 **possibly**

German "eventuell" means "possibly / perhaps". "Eventually" means "definitely at some point" — a dangerous difference in a negotiation.

02 **lead**

"Lead time" is the standard B2B term for the time between order and delivery.

BRICK 3 · TRUE OR FALSE?

01 **False**

False — the frames are not in stock; the current lead time is six weeks.

02 **True**

True — she does not reserve capacity yet but notes it as a potential follow-up order.

BRICK 4 · ORDER

01 **1.** Frank asks about the September delivery date

02 **2.** Rachel confirms delivery by the eighteenth

03 **3.** The "eventually / eventuell" misunderstanding happens

04 **4.** Frank restates the second batch as a possibility

05 **5.** They confirm the order and the written confirmation

KEEP PRACTISING LIVE

Want to practise these phrases in a real conversation?

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· Online.

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