

FRANGLAIS, FALSE FRIENDS

At CERN we come across much unidiomatic usage translated from a similar word, phrase, or expression in another language.

- *actually* (actuellement) should be (just) now, at present, at the present time, currently, nowadays;
- *allow to* (permettre de) should be ‘this system allows *one to* measure the position of positrons...’ or ‘this system *allows* the position of positrons *to be measured*’;
- *already* in 1990 should be *as far back as* 1990, *as early as* 1990;
- *arrive to do* something (arriver à faire qch) should be *to manage to do* something, *to succeed in doing* something;
- *control* (contrôler) in scientific English prefer check, count, examine, inspect, measure, monitor, observe; in technical usage to control means to govern, maintain, or limit a variable, e.g. flow or temperature;
- *eventually* (éventuellement) the meaning understood by a native English speaker is ‘will definitely happen at some undetermined date in the future’:

We all die, eventually.

A better translation of éventuellement would be *possibly; perhaps; if necessary; if required; should the possibility arise*;

- *realized* (réalisé) should be achieved with, built, carried out, created, developed, fabricated, generated, made, manufactured, produced;
- *recuperation* should be salvaging, recycling, decommissioning, recovery;
- *since* many years (depuis) should be *for* many years;
- *to support* (supporter) should be to withstand