

■ **16.5.2** In imperatives (mostly introduced by **dann**, *then*) **eben** states the lack of an alternative, often with a sense of frustration. It can also intensify a command:

Dann bleib **eben** zu Hause! *You just stay at home, then!*
 Dann halt dich **eben** da raus! *Well, you just stop interfering!*

16.6 eigentlich

■ **16.6.1** In statements **eigentlich** allows the speaker to change his or her mind. A following subordinate clause with **aber** often outlines the alternative or explains the reasons. **Eigentlich** can also tone down a refusal:

Eigentlich wollte ich zu Fuß gehen, aber dann habe ich doch den Bus genommen. *I was actually going to walk, but then I did take the bus after all.*

Sie schien **eigentlich** ganz nett, aber sie ist doch ziemlich reserviert. *She seemed nice enough, but she's really very reserved.*

Kommst du mit? *Are you coming along?*

Ich wollte **eigentlich** jetzt arbeiten. *I was actually going to do some work now.*

■ **16.6.2** **Eigentlich** makes a question friendlier and less direct. In rhetorical questions it is often reproachful:

Was hast du **eigentlich** studiert? *Can you tell me what you studied?*

Haben Sie **eigentlich** keinen Respekt vor alten Leuten? *Don't you have any respect for elderly people?*

16.7 etwa

Etwa is used mainly in questions and implied questions. The speaker hopes that something is not the case, but fears that it may be:

Störe ich Sie **etwa**? *I hope I'm not disturbing you?*
 Hat er **etwa** gekündigt? *He hasn't handed in his notice, has he?*

Sie glauben (doch) nicht **etwa**, dass sie daran Schuld hatte? *You surely don't believe it was her fault?*

16.8 ja

■ **16.8.1** In statements **ja** often indicates that both speakers share some common knowledge (or at least assume that they do):

Du kennst ihn **ja**. *You know what he's like.*
 Sie wohnt **ja** schon lange nicht mehr hier. *She hasn't been living here for a long time, as you know.*

■ **16.8.2** In imperatives **ja** (like **bloß** and **nur**, 16.3) may express a warning, but can also convey reassurance:

Sei **ja** pünktlich! *You'd better be on time!*
 Mach dir **ja** keine Sorgen! *Don't you worry!*

■ **16.8.3** In exclamations **ja** often conveys surprise:
 Das hätte ich **ja** nicht gedacht! *Well, I never!*

Note that **ja** is also the affirmative particle *yes* and can be used in isolation or as a tag:

Du kommst doch morgen, **ja**? *You are coming tomorrow, aren't you?*

16.9 mal, nun mal

■ **16.9.1** **Mal** is mainly used in commands and requests, making them friendlier and more casual:

Geh (doch) **mal** den Nachbarn fragen. *Why don't you just go and ask the neighbour?*
 Könntest du mir bitte **mal** anfassend? *You couldn't give me a hand with this, could you?*