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HOW TO SPEAK ENGLISH TO NON-NATIVE SPEAKERS

Techniques for Better Intercultural Communication

English is a major language used to communicate all over the world. But, as you know, not all English is the same.

As speakers in a global world, it takes more effort to make sure our words and messages are understood by non-native speakers.

Here are some concrete tips:

- 1. Organize your thoughts.**
- 2. Speak slowly and distinctly.**
- 3. Allow for pauses.**
- 4. Louder is not clearer.**
- 5. Watch for signs of whether they understand or not.**
- 6. Use familiar words.**
- 7. Say exactly what you mean.**
- 8. Emphasize or repeat keywords.**
- 9. Be creative. Find alternative ways to say something.**
- 10. Use the right tone of voice to express the meaning.**
- 11. Use appropriate body language and facial expressions.**
- 12. Avoid confusing negative questions like “So, you’re not going to do that, are you?”**
- 13. Avoid slang such as:**
 - ASAP**
 - This won’t fly**
 - And sports jargon like:**
 - Keep your eye on the ball.**
 - Cover all the bases.**
- 14. Avoid jokes and sarcasm.**
- 15. Be aware of the regional language.**
 - “Dinner” could mean “lunch” and “tabling a discussion” is something different in England.**
- 16. Be authentic. Let your energy and feelings come through.**
 - Speak beyond the words and into heart of the meanings.**

So Relax. Take a positive approach by seeing the bigger picture.

What’s the purpose for communicating at all?

We want to connect and develop relationships that work.