

Tips for Communicating in a Foreign Language

1. _____

Learning a new language and communicating it fluently to another person are completely different things.

If you've ever done public speaking or any type of presentation in front of a crowd, you know how it feels.

There's a **sense of self-consciousness** we feel when we're speaking a foreign language with native speakers. We're not sure if people will understand us, judge us, or if we're saying something completely different than we intended.

The irony is that most of these doubts come before we even approach them, like the **excruciating** moments before we bungee jump. **Keep in mind** that this is completely normal. This feeling of uncomfortability occurs anytime we're learning a new skill: from swimming to playing the guitar, and so on.

Despite our lack of language knowledge, there's ways we can improve how we

Tips



2. _____

A fun and effective way to deal with your self-consciousness is **to poke fun at yourself**. This is what professional comedians do all the time: to deflect potential harmful attention from themselves and to build empathy with their audience.

Culture Corner 6



3. _____

You may know a lot of words, but you don't know how to order food or ask for directions to the place you need. These phrases will help you here.

4. _____

Focus on being clear rather than using complex vocabulary or intricate sentence structures. Use simple, direct language and avoid slang.

5. _____

When words fail, non-verbal communication becomes your best friend.

Use body language, **hand gestures**, and facial expressions to convey your message. Maintain eye contact, smile, and show a genuine interest in understanding others.

6. _____

Every language has its colloquialisms and idioms, which can be challenging to understand.

These phrases often carry meanings that go beyond their literal interpretation. Learning them **enhances** not just your language proficiency but also your cultural understanding, allowing you to engage more naturally in conversations.



LEAD IN

1. Answer the questions:

- What do you think about the fact that many people worry when communicating in a foreign language?
- Do you feel nervous when you want to communicate with a person in a foreign language?
- What are you doing to calm down?

PRE-READING

2. Look at the title of the text. Discuss in pairs what advice you would give to a person who is communicating with a foreigner for the first time and is very nervous.

3. Look at the words in bold in the text and try to explain what they mean. Write them down.

WHILE-READING

4. Read the text. Match the paragraph with the main idea

- A. Learn frequently used expressions
- B. Understanding Colloquialisms and Idioms
- C. Speak Slowly and Clearly
- D. Use non-verbal communication
- E. Make fun of yourself
- F. Speak as loudly as possible
- G. Introduction

5. Read the text again. Decide if the statements are T (true) or F (false).

- 1. In conversation, you should not use facial expressions, hand gestures, so as not to distract others from conversations.
- 2. Most often, doubts about their communication capabilities arise even before the conversation
- 3. The surest way to deal with your self-consciousness is to do a warm-up
- 4. You should speak slowly and clearly, avoiding slang and difficult sentence structures

POST-READING



6. Make your own brochure with "Tips for communicating".

Find more tips for communicating in a foreign language and write 5-6 tips. For each advice, you should write a description for 2-3 sentences.

