

## The Basic of Communication

The basic of communication is that “If a person understands you then your language use is correct”.

So, you can use any words that you want to;  
as long as your intended meaning is understood  
& acknowledged by the other person.

For learning English this means if you see people using language in a way you recognise from your own language then you can understand them. Furthermore, you can adapt their language through speaking and using it everyday. People always communicate in many ways including through body language, gestures, voice tonality & tempo. For example when people say “what’s up” in English or Portuguese/Spanish “que pasa” it is generally as 2 people meet & they use a certain voice tone, body posture etc. What I am saying is that I often look at people speaking and can feel what they are saying.

I believe that everyone can do this but unfortunately they are not told this. They are told that “learning is a slow & painful process”. The way they were taught it, it was. People do not learn language using grammar, they never have done. So why teach it that way?

I quite enjoy pretending I can speak other people’s languages through these methods. A few examples include:

2 of my students were talking and I asked the other where she was originally from in Italy. I deduced this just from hearing the word Sicilly and said outloud “you just asked where she lived”. They both looked at me with amazement and she asked “do you speak Italian”? She already knew the answer (that I didn’t). I proceeded to explain to them that I heard 1 word and worked it out. I said to them that this is a very important concept to grasp (understand) as it will benefit you for the rest of your life.

I also had many occasions with that same female student where she went to say something to me and I immediately told her the English equivalent. Because I got a strong feeling of what she wanted to say. Then we would argue for a few minutes that she thought I was wrong e.g. how could you know what I want to say without me saying it. Are you psychic... do do do do do do. It would be handy if I was but there are much simpler ways of working this stuff out.

Everyone has an unconscious mind and everyone has feelings, well almost everyone. If you get a feeling or see a picture then you can usually assume that it’s correct. In your life you have probably seen or heard something similar before and so your mind gives you a signal to help you save time e.g. so you understand the situation. Learn to notice these signals and acknowledge them. Also, as much as some people like to say that we are all individuals (me included); there are things that all humans share. We all have legs, arms, eyes, minds, hair, ideas, 20 years growing, 30 years dying etc etc. We talk and write about the same things despite doing so in different languages.

I also very much enjoyed another occasion when 2 people were saying something they shouldn’t in Swahili. The voice tones, prior behaviour & me being in the room was how I “psychically” solved this case. I turned around to the girl and said “it’s a good job I can read minds, otherwise this language barrier might be a problem”. The girl covered her mouth in utter disbelief and I laughed my head off as I walked out of the room. The moral of the story is have fun whenever available and possible.

I recommend to all my students that they should make use of pictures and sounds to aid their communication. The human mind actually works faster with pictures & sounds than with language. When using spoken or written language a person has to convert it into pictures or sounds to understand it. By using pictures/sounds to explain something the mind understands and remembers a lot faster. I certainly prefer these techniques as opposed to grammar for example. I hear people constantly say stupid things like “how can you learn without grammar” or “unless someone speaks both languages how can they teach English”. The second question was I asked myself until I started teaching English and studying about how humans really learn things. Remember that statements like this are limiting beliefs that someone else told you at some point in your life. If someone else couldn't do something it means that you can easily accomplish it with the right attitude.

The words about needing both languages was told to me by a student of mine who I had already taught English very quickly. Yet, he still believed an old belief that could only hinder/stop his progress. In fact I was telling him that he would make a great teacher when he told me this.

The moral of all this is that you can do anything you want to. If you want to be something then do it. If anybody told you that you couldn't do something they were wrong. Anything anyone ever said that limited you in any way is now cancelled/void and you are free to do everything.

As ultimate proof of the uselessness of the grammar system, grammar based courses can take a year to complete. Whereas, it is possible to learn a whole language in 1 week using these up to date and other newer methods. There are people offering a 1 week language course and other people have learnt a whole language in a week for experiments/documentaries.

Have a many nice days

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