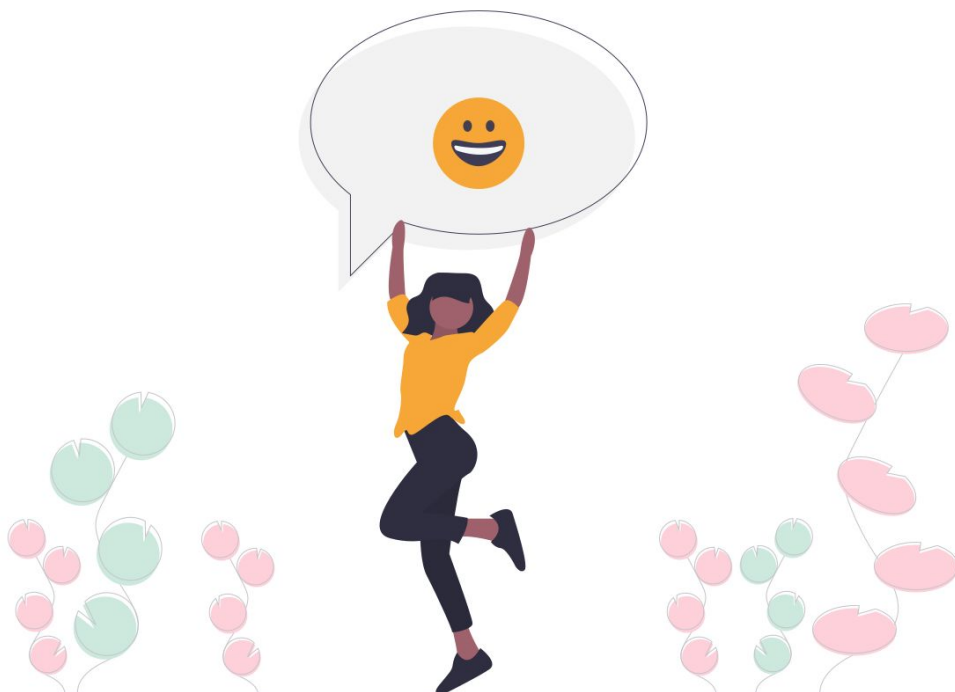


Language

Moving to a new country is challenging at the best of times, and then having to think and speak in a new language adds a whole new level of 'arghhhh'! Plus when you hear the many dialects and accents across the UK, you may begin to wonder exactly what language are people talking.

So here are some basic guidelines to help.

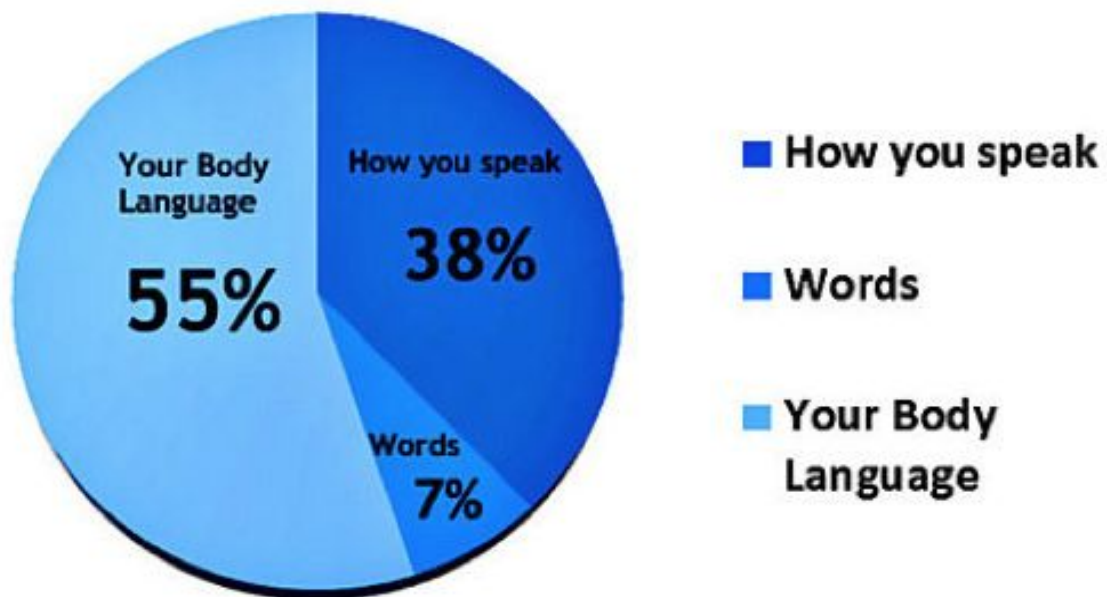


Rule 1

Question – what matters more – what you say or how you say it?

Answer – How you say things can be more important than the words! Body language is most important, and the way in which you say things matters too

What do people hear when you speak?



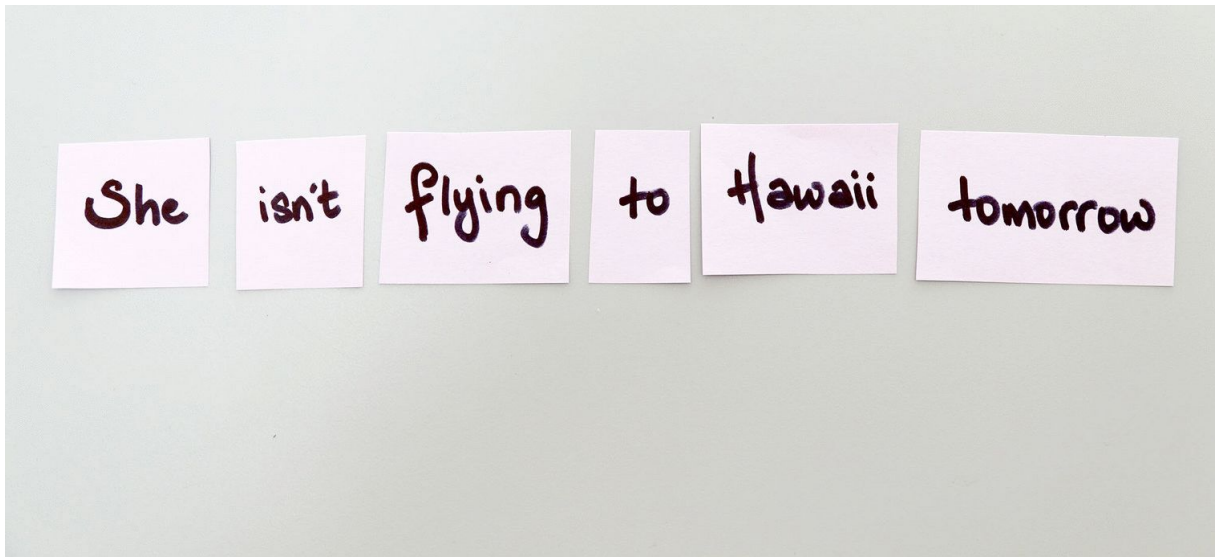
It turns out that the words don't matter as much as you think.

So think about your **body language** - top tips for positive body language in the UK

- Look people directly in the eye
- Smile
- Try to be open
- Show you are listening - ask them to repeat or say if you don't understand



For TONE, try emphasising a different word in this sentence each time you say it, have a go at the exercise below.



'She isn't flying to Hawaii tomorrow'

- By emphasising the 'she' it implies that someone else is flying to Hawaii tomorrow.
- The 'isn't' shows that she's not doing this anymore.
- Emphasising the 'flying' means that she's not flying, she may be getting there another way instead.
- 'To' could mean she is flying from or by Hawaii.
- Emphasis on Hawaii shows that she is flying somewhere else, not Hawaii.
- Finally, 'tomorrow' could mean that it's actually a different day, not tomorrow.

1 sentence, 6 meanings depending on where you use tone



RULE 2

Question – what should you do if you don't understand?

Answer – always ask the person to say it again

Most Brits only speak English so will be highly respectful of anyone that speaks more than 1 language ie YOU!

So please do use the line ***'I'm so sorry, I didn't understand, please can you repeat?'*** if you don't understand, if they are talking too quickly or using odd phrases (see Rule 3)

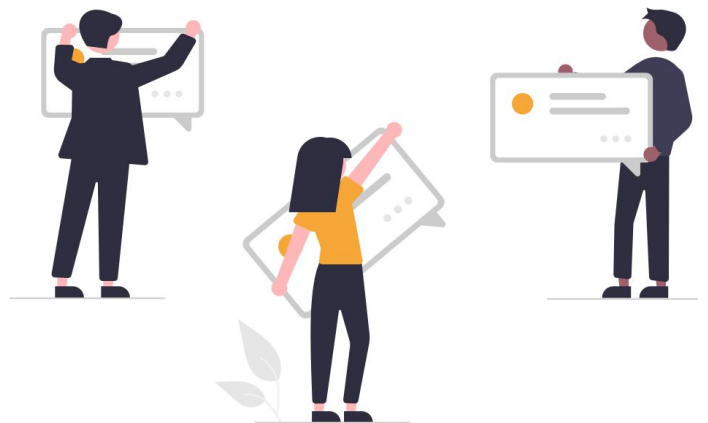
RULE 3

You may understand the words, but they may mean something else...

Brits like to use some weird and wonderful phrases that don't mean what you think they do. Please don't ask why they do, it's probably just easier to accept that it's the way native English speakers speak!

There are heaps of weird phrases used in UK, and proper English idioms that are difficult to understand - *"It's no skin off my nose"* means I don't really mind or it doesn't affect me or *"Until the cows come home"* means 'a long time' Weird eh?

On the next page are some phrases that you are likely to hear - and an explanation of what they mean!



What is said....	What you might think it means...	What they actually mean.....
You don't want to do that! OR You don't want to be doing that!	They are telling me that I don't want to do something – but how could they possibly know what I do or what I don't want to do?!	You shouldn't do it OR I'd advise against it
He can't help himself	He can't assist himself with certain tasks, maybe he is unwell or unable to help himself due to physical reasons	He can't RESIST doing something, he's not able to say no or the temptation to do something is too great
Shut up!	Shut up, be silent or shut your mouth (rude!)	Wow! That's amazing! Or I don't believe it!
I see	They can see something or are looking at something	I understand
See where I'm coming from?	Maybe they are talking about which city or town they are from, or where they have just walked from	Do you understand me?
You may want to... OR You might like to....	Are they giving me permission to do something?	You should... (just a polite way to advise or to suggest someone to do something)
I don't buy it!	Are they buying something at the shop?	I don't believe you / it
I'm looking forward to...	They are looking straight ahead (rather than backwards / sideways)	I'm excited about... I'm waiting for something to happen...
It doesn't hurt to...	This isn't going to cause me pain	It could be beneficial to you, so maybe worth doing it
*Tell me about it!	Tell me how it is for you or tell me the story	I know exactly what you mean!



RULE 4

Practice makes perfect!

The more you talk, the easier speaking English will become. Tongue twisters (eg poems that are difficult to say) can help with how to say words and wrestling your mouth around unusual sentences. “Peter Piper” is one of the most popular tongue twister nursery rhymes original to England. Although it was known earlier, it was first published in a book ‘Practical Principles of Plain and Perfect Pronunciation’ in 1813.

Try to say the rhyme below – slowly at first – then as your tongue becomes well trained, try it more quickly.

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers

A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked.

If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,

Where's the peck of pickled peppers that Peter Piper picked?

We hope that's made you giggle.

RULE 5

Always be polite

No matter what you say, always try to be polite – this will be well received by most Brits. So use please and thank you often, apologise even if you're not wrong (this is a very British trait), always ask how someone is – and if they ask you, you can respond with ‘*I'm very well thank you, and how are you?*’

And if in doubt, always be prepared to talk about the weather, a favourite subject for many British people, and often the start of many conversations!

**We hope that's been a light hearted ‘survival kit’ for
speaking English, good luck 🙌**

