

Communication

In this lesson we will try to break away from basic English and use more advanced vocabulary and phrasal verbs to express ourselves.

incorrect:

*I am having a difficult time **saying** my opinion.*

*It is hard for me to **tell** my idea.*

*Can I tell you **anything**?*

correct:

*I am having a difficult time **expressing** my opinion.*

*It's hard for me to **clarify** my idea.*

*Can I tell you **something**?*

While "say" and "tell" are useful verbs get in the habit of expanding your vocabulary with words like: clarify, express, define, and indicate.

incorrect:

*What does this artwork **mean**?*

*What is the **meaning** of this documentary?*

*Talking loudly has a negative **meaning** in my culture.*

correct:

*What does this artwork **signify**?*

*What is the **significance** of this documentary?*

*Talking loudly has a negative **connotation** in my culture.*

Lets replace "mean" and "meaning" with "signify" and "significance".

Questions:

- 1.) What is the significance of bowing in your culture?
- 2.) I'm a little bit confused about the purpose of team building in your culture. Can you please clarify exactly what you do during team building with your co-workers?
- 3.) What are some actions that have a very negative connotation in your culture or country?
- 4.) How do you express your artistic side?

Collocations:

Collocations are words that naturally go together within a language.

make: a change, a choice, a decision, a living

miss: a chance, an opportunity

take: a chance, an opportunity

Questions:

- 1.) What's the best way to make a living these days?
- 2.) Do you have any regrets due to missed opportunities?
- 3.) Have you ever taken a chance and done something risky?
- 4.) If you had to make a choice between a trip to Japan and a trip to China which would you choose and why?
- 5.) Tell me about a big change you've made in your life. What led to that decision to make such a drastic change?

Match:

When we communicate we use our "minds". Here are several common phrases that have the word "mind" in them. Match the words from column 1 with the best-suited answer from column 2.

Column 1	Column 2
1.) keep an open mind	a.) To remember.
2.) bear in mind	b.) To have an idea or solution.
3.) have something in mind	c.) Forgot.
4.) My mind went blank	d.) To relax and stop worrying.
5.) It slipped my mind	e.) Can't think of anything.
6.) Put your mind at ease.	f.) try not to judge others ideas or opinions.

Daily Expressions, Phrasal Verbs & Idioms:

1.) **"It's beyond me":** When you have absolutely no understanding of something (idea, subject, trend, etc...)

"My son loves math, especially trigonometry. But all that math stuff is beyond me." "The rules of soccer are beyond me."