**Barriers to communication**

* Language barrier. Meaning can be lost through translation, and if no translator is available, communication is severely limited.
* Setting. If the room is too noisy, communication can become difficult.
* Disability. It may be harder for deaf, blind or people with a speech impediment to communicate.
* Illness or poor hygiene. It is not pleasant to talk to someone who is coughing or sneezing all the time.
* Lack of interest. It is difficult to discuss a topic if a participant is not interested in that topic.
* Being unable to appear in person. While telecommunication removes the distance barrier, it is not as effective as meeting face-to-face.
* Cultural diversity. We are unintentionally biased against people from different cultures.
* Status differences. A powerful or important person can intimidate someone who is less important.
* Gender differences. Males and Females tend to communicate differently. Males generally talk side by side, and may not look at the other person much. Most females prefer to talk facing each other, and be close to each other. This could cause problems at a meeting, for example if people sit too far apart.
* Lack of communication skills. Some people are not effective communicators. They may be shy, have SAD (social anxiety disorder) or just not notice body language. These things can prevent somebody from fully understanding or delivering a point.
* Communicating via a textual medium. When communicating through email or letters, there are no verbal cues or body language, so the recipient may perceive the tone or meaning of the message differently than it was intended.