Guide To Cross-cultural Communication

Sana Reynolds Deborah Valentine

Effective cross-cultural communication involves both language skill and an understanding of how language is used differently across cultures. Individuals interacting across cultures need to be sensitive to cross-cultural differences in free versus constrained topics. Questions about income, marriage, and family can invade personal privacy in Western contexts; however, these are acceptable topics of social conversation in other cultures. Sexual and religious taboos differ cross-culturally as well. Cross-cultural communication can be challenging. Here’s what to know to successfully communicate and collaborate with colleagues from different cultures. It all comes back to effective cross-cultural communication in the workplace, and we connected with a couple of different experts to get the lowdown on everything you need to know. Challenges. Let’s face it; it’s far easier to communicate with someone who is exactly like you; someone who shares your values, your perceptions, and your approach. It’s when there are disconnects between those things that communication becomes more complicated, and that’s exactly why cross-cultural communication presents some barriers for today’s professionals.