

Overcoming Language Barriers

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Safety4Sea <https://safety4sea.com> has published an excellent article on issues with language barriers at sea. The article can be found [here](#).

Language barriers are a common challenge in the shipping environment with multinational, multilingual and multicultural crew. What native speakers often don't realize is that their own way of speaking the language 'correctly' can be as big a barrier as the listener's limited comprehension of the language, thus creating a barrier to effective communication. The article highlights some clear principles for overcoming language barriers.



- **Speak slowly and clearly**, don't rush through your communication.
- **If in doubt – ASK**: Ask for clarification. If you are not 100% sure you've understood what others say, politely ask for them to make it clearer. Don't assume you've understood what's been said.
- **Frequently check for understanding**. Use two-way communication and reflective listening – repeat back what you have heard.
- **Be specific**. Spell out your expectations and deadlines clearly.
- **Be patient**. Cross-cultural communication takes more time.

The full article can be found here: <https://safety4sea.com/overcoming-language-barriers/>

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