

KAREN SAYS..

...WHATY?

SITTING at the newspaper having a last look at the pages before we send them merrily on the next step in the process of bringing you our weekly labour of love, I seem to be inundated with calls and emails this week.

There are people we seem to connect with immediately, making communication effortless. And then there is the entire spectrum of people who require varying levels of blood, sweat and tears to get a message across. Adds to the colour of life, doesn't it?

As both Morag Barrett and Richard Newton point out, the ability to develop better connections in our professional lives is important, and is equally applicable in our lives outside work. Barrett cautions us on actions we might want to avoid, providing action plans to counter each bad habit; while Newton shares seven simple steps on how to connect with others better.

Joseph Tan takes a step back to consider the things which may threaten the establishment of good relationships, then urges us to take the time to listen, think and invest in the people around us.

Connections can be made at different levels – where good communication skills tend to lie at the core. Majura Perashot, truly walks the walk (or in this case, talks the talk!) – as I have seen her in action communicating with ease in the many interactions she has.

This brings us to the article by Jonathan Yabut on how to love the boss you dislike! Trying to develop a good working relationship with anyone who is disagreeable is dicey in itself – if that person happens to be the boss, one might imagine much walking on eggshells. Yabut presents a good case as to why we should choose to “love our bosses” and how we might do it.

You can say that the leader we feature in *The Leaderonomics Show* made a different connection – making a change and connecting the dots that led him down a very different path in his career and life. Khirriah Kodry uncovers the story behind a lawyer turned PR man.

In our Starting Young column, Stephanie Kee shares with us her thought process in finding the right role model. And finally in Movie Wisdom, Kathleen Tan shares the leadership lessons she learnt from the movie *Kingsman: The Secret Service*.

Have a fantastic weekend!

KAREN NEOH
Editor
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THE MISSING LINK IN COMMUNICATION

By **TARA THIAGARAJAN**
tara.thiagarajan@leaderonomics.com

SINCE the dawn of time, language has been used as a mode of communication between the likes of Neanderthals to Shakespeare; a fact which also illustrates the vast differences in language skills amongst humans.

As for myself, I find that I frequently oscillate within the spectrum of societal language conventions.

Therefore, the meaning behind my chatter has often been misconstrued by some, but understood by others.

This has led me to believe that my language skills have been shaped over the years into a vague, mildly confusing verbal expression of my ever-wandering thoughts.

All these facts lead me to believe that I am a less-than-adequate communicator when it comes to determining how I should speak depending on where I am.

AN AWKWARD MOMENT

To illustrate this point, let us journey into my very embarrassing past, when I was at the tender age of 15.

During this time in my life, I was transferred to a new school and thus, was exposed to many new faces I had to interact with.

Due to the inherent human tendency of not wanting to be shunned by peers, I attempted to socialise by adopting the preferred acquired linguistic styling known as Ebonics, or commonly known as African American or “ghetto” slang.

Foolproof though I thought my plan was, my ship soon sank as I attempted to sail into the vast unknown sea of social interaction.

As soon as I embarked, the mysterious waters began seeping into the crevasses of my “ghetto” vessel, flooding my ship with question marks and confused expressions.

As my greeting of “Yo, what up home skillet biscuitz?!” fell on confused and mildly terrified ears, it was then I realised that nearly all of my classmates primarily spoke Chinese and were not as familiar as I was in the stylings of popular hip hop artists such as Lil Wayne and Jay-Z.

To continue this maritime metaphor, I jumped ship and swam to the shores of “Manglish”. Over time, I was accepted amongst my classmates once they began to understand me.

THE TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

As a consequence of this slightly dramatised anecdote, I learned that it is important to adjust the way I speak depending on the situation in which I find myself, an issue I think many individuals struggle with as well.

Admitting your weakness is the first step to improving yourself, and I think I have effectively taken that step. Together, let us all be aware of our environment to ensure that effective communication takes place.

Onwards and upwards, my comrades in communication!

QUOTES

The opinions expressed in this career guide are those of the writers or the people they quoted and not necessarily those of Leaderonomics.



- 01 “The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.” – **George Bernard Shaw**
- 02 “Communication – the human connection – is the key to personal and career success.” – **Paul J. Meyer**
- 03 “My belief is that communication is the best way to create strong relationships.” – **Jada Pinkett Smith**
- 04 “The picture of a flower in a botanical book is information its mission ends with our knowledge. But in pure art it is a personal communication. And therefore until it finds its harmony in the depth of our personality it misses the mark” – **Rabindranath Tagore**

EDITORIAL
Adviser
ROSHAN THIRAN
Editor
KAREN NEOH

Contributing editors
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JOSEPH TAN
MAJURA PERASHOT
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MORAG BARRETT
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