

Communication is Essential to Success

by Essential Skills

Communication is a skill that is central to your daily life, especially in the workplace. Think of all the ways employees communicate within an organization: making presentations about new policies, emailing coworkers, speaking up in meetings to discuss problems with a product, listening to customer concerns, and scheduling time off are just a few. It's no wonder, then, that communication is consistently one of the top skills employers look for in their new hires (NACE, 2018). A report from Burning Glass Technologies, a company that tracks employment trends, states that communication is one of "the top three requested baseline skills overall" (2015, p. 10).

The good news is that communication is a skill you can develop! As you learn more about the communication process, you'll become more mindful of the messages you're sending and receiving. And as you practice effective communication strategies, you'll be able to express yourself more clearly and have confidence that you'll be understood. You'll even start understanding others better too.

Let's meet some of America's most talented improv comedians. Whether they're keeping audiences in stitches night after night, or climbing the corporate ladder at their day jobs, there's one skill that's crucial to their success - communication.



THINK ABOUT IT

Think of a time in your life when you've felt really understood by someone important to you, or helped someone else—a friend, classmate, coworker, or family member—feel heard and understood. Did you feel closer or more connected to that person? Or experience a rush of satisfaction? Or maybe a deep sense of fulfillment?

If your answer is "yes," there's a good chance you're already familiar with some of the rewards that come along with successful communication. Our ability as human beings to connect to others and send and receive information is not only crucial to feeling understood; it's also critical to our success at home, work, and school.