

How to overcome or mitigate the semantic barrier to effective communication



Be Explicit

Hold the sarcasm and the coded messages. Express expectations clearly to eliminate the chance of misinterpretation.



Use Appropriate Body Language

Facial expressions and gestures can help to overcome semantic barriers of communication because they help to clarify meaning. However, failure to recognize this leads to more misunderstandings if inappropriate body language is used. This is also something that differs from place to place, so some sensitivity is needed.

SEMANTIC BARRIERS

This barrier arises because different words mean different things to different people.



When in Doubt, Ask

Assumptions are the enemy of clarity. Don't assume meaning. If ever in doubt, ask clarifying questions.



Cross-Cultural Awareness

There's no better antidote to semantic and cultural barriers than curiosity about the world. Employees dealing with people across geographies should be aware of the different cultures at play. It'll help them understand and deal with different situations.



Establish Shared Understanding

Just like countries and regions have a culture, so too do different organizations. They might use specific words, jargon and acronyms. If an employee is new to the system, or the jargon is in a language they aren't comfortable with, they may miss the meaning. Establish a shared understanding of this kind of terminology for ease of communication.