

HUMOR IN ENGLISH: DOS AND DON'TS

Nowadays many specialists should know English to be successful in their careers. This language helps understand people all over the world. In our case, tour manager should be able to get on well with people in different situations. But studying English is not only learning by heart words and grammar rules. It's much more. Understanding jokes and being aware of the peculiarities of humor are considered as signs of fluency. If you can crack a joke in English, it'll definitely make your socializing with clients easier. Let's look through the main, in our opinion, benefits of using humor:

- 1) Helps you connect with audience;
- 2) Disarms hostility;
- 3) Keeps attention;
- 4) Makes information more memorable.

Without any doubts the list can be continued. Let's stress another important moment – humor in English is different even among native speakers, because, for example, British and American variants of humor are not the same, the cultural backgrounds make them totally different. So making people laugh using English demands deep and profound cultural knowledge. To improve your skills in this sphere, you should find out about customs and traditions, songs and poems, famous jokes and so on. Maybe reading jokes in English, trying to analyze and understand them is the best way to improve.

According to Wikipedia “British humor carries a strong element of satire aimed at the absurdity of everyday life. Common themes include sarcasm, insults, self-deprecation, taboo subjects, puns, innuendo, wit, and the British class system. These are often accompanied by a deadpan delivery which is present throughout the British sense of humor. It may be used to bury emotions in a way that seems unkind in the eyes of other cultures” [1]. It is said that British humor can be bizarre and not appropriate in some situations.

And in its turn “American humor refers collectively to the conventions and common threads that tie together humor in the United States. It is often defined in comparison to the humor of another country – for example, how it is different from British humor and Canadian humor. It is, however, difficult to say what makes a particular type or subject of humor particularly American. Humor usually concerns aspects of American culture, and depends on the historical and current

development of the country's culture. The extent to which an individual will personally find something humorous obviously depends on a host of absolute and relative variables, including, but not limited to geographical location, culture, maturity, level of education, and context” [2].

Even the British admit that “there’s a received wisdom in the U.K. that Americans don’t get irony. This is of course not true. But what is true is that they don’t use it all the time. It shows up in the smarter comedies but Americans don’t use it as much socially as Brits. We use it as liberally as prepositions in every day speech. We tease our friends. We use sarcasm as a shield and a weapon. We avoid sincerity until it’s absolutely necessary. We mercilessly take the piss out of people we like or dislike basically. And ourselves. This is very important. Our brashness and swagger is laden with equal portions of self-deprecation. This is our license to hand it out” [3].

So what to do to avoid some awkward situations? First of all, it is necessary to be aware that there are four types of joking distinguished: language-free, language-dependent, culture-dependent, and interlanguage.

If you are not confident about your skills in language-dependent, culture-dependent, and interlanguage joking, try language-free one, these jokes are equally amusing in different languages. By the way, being tolerate is also crucial. You should think carefully about topics for your jokes, they should be relevant to your audience. Some topics are inappropriate for humor or maybe they can be tricky, for instance, politics, drugs, religion, abuse, death.

In the conclusion, we would like to emphasize that practice, real communication and reading, they are essential components for developing English – speaking skills.

СПИСОК ВИКОРИСТАНОЇ ЛІТЕРАТУРИ

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