



Simplifying Spoken Language

Dialogue

- Teacher:** Okay, in just a minute we're going to have to start the test. You have just one hour to do it and here's your test paper. You're not allowed to look at it just yet until I've told you about the test conditions. After that, you can begin. And then, once you have finished I'll get the papers from you. Right, so make sure you...
- Learner:** (learner starts looking at the paper)
- Teacher:** Maria, don't look at the paper just yet. Because you need to listen to me first, okay?
- Learner:** Okay.
- Teacher:** Your mobiles phones need to be switched off and you shouldn't have anything on your desk in front of you like your books and any papers and all that so put them away, right away.
- Learner:** *(Silence)*
- Teacher:** Would you mind moving your stuff off the desk?
- Learner:** Mmm, yes.
- Teacher:** *(speaking louder)* Would you mind moving your stuff, please?
- Learner:** Sorry?
- Teacher:** Can you move your bag, please? There should be nothing on your desk.
- Learner:** Okay. I can put my bag here?
- Teacher:** Yes, over there is fine.
- Learner:** Okay. Remember, you're not allowed to speak to each other while the test is going on and if you have a problem you can put your hand up and then I'll come to you. Are you following me?

Learner: *(Silence)*

Teacher: Did you get that? ... Do you understand what I am saying?

Learner: No

Teacher: I'll say it again. You must not speak during the test and please put your hand up if you have a problem.

Learner: Okay. *(student shakes head)*

Teacher: You don't understand me, do you?

Learner: No

Teacher: Okay, I'll explain it again for you....

Learner: No. I understand. I must be quiet.

Teacher: Yes. That's right. Good, and please raise your hand if you have a problem.

Learner: Okay. I understand. *(learner shakes head again)*

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You have watched the above conversation being played out. Now read the dialogue in small groups and discuss the following questions.

1. What problems are the teacher and learner having with communication?
2. How are (or how can) these problems rectified?

