

Hallmarks of Effective Communication

Effective Communication	4	Ineffective Communication
Use "I" Statements	instead of	"You" Statements
I'm uncomfortable when you raise your voice at me.	4	You have no right to raise your voice at me!
Use Descriptive Statements	instead of	Inferential Statements
I am frustrated that you do not seem to grasp my point.	4	You're not listening to me!
Be Kind <	instead of	Self Righteous
I'm not sure if you heard me say that.	1	I told you that already!
Use statements <	instead of	Rhetorical Questions
It took me aback when you said that.		How could you say that?
Show empathy <	instead of	Minimizing
You seem real upset about that.		There's nothing to worry about!
Use Tact <	instead of	Tactless Statements
I don't agree with what you said.	1	That's ridiculous!
Be Specific <	instead of	Over catastrophizing
I am upset when you called me lazy.		You're always criticizing me.
Be respectful <	instead of	Labeling
I don't feel comfortable when you act rudely to me.	4	You're acting like a jerk!
Ask for a change <	instead of	Demanding a Change
Please stop saying that to me.	1	Stop talking!
Request	instead of	"Shoulding"
I would appreciate you not raising your voice.	4	You shouldn't raise your voice
Uses Active Listening <	instead of	Hearing and Defending
It seems like you are disappointed in me.	4	I never did that!
Encourage	instead of	Discourage
Can you explain how you feel?	mistead of	That's a lie.