

VAdv Follow-up Activities

Text type: reading

Week: 2

Title: When speaking a new language, what matters most is your attitude, not your accuracy

Author/Speaker: Daniella Balarezo

Follow-up Writing:

Paraphrase each of the following sections of the reading, as you would if you wanted to include the information in a summary.

1. But as it turns out, however, we'd benefit by shifting our focus and worry less about getting it right, according to communication skills trainer Marianna Pascal.

2. She says, "If you want to speak English like Faisal with that great confidence, here's the one thing that you can do when you speak. Don't focus on yourself; focus on the other person and the result you want to achieve."

Follow-up Discussion:

1. What kind of support does the author use in her article? Is her support convincing?
2. When you speak English, do you think you're more like Faisal or more like Pascal's daughter?
3. When people who are learners of your first language speak to you, do you notice all the errors they make, or do you focus more on their overall message and their ability to communicate?
4. Do you believe that making errors is a natural and necessary part of learning to speak a new language? How can making errors be helpful in language learning?