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RULES IN THE DISCUSSION

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ABOUT ARTICLE

Key words: Discussion, understanding, prior knowledge, the situation, the heading, task, arguments.
Abstract: This article talks about the discussion and the most important advice for successful conversations when learning a foreign language.

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INTRODUCTION

It is time to reform the education system, expand opportunities for new expertise, prepare specialists capable of working in new circumstances with new technologies. For this reason, great attention is always paid to the acquisition of foreign languages in our republic. This article deals with teaching the rules of communication in German as a foreign language. The selected topic is currently topical, because while studying at the non-philological college, students should master the meaning and forms of lexical units and be able to use them in various situations of oral and written communication. You master the skills of lexical design of the generated text when speaking and writing and learn to understand lexical units when listening and reading. When people with different opinions meet, in the best case scenario everyone involved gains new information and perspectives. In a bad case, the conversation gets out of hand - and no one benefits. Whether a discussion escalates or is productive is neither coincidence nor fate. It would be better to follow the following rules to have a successful discussion. These rules help ensure that the debate is successful.

1. A DISCUSSION IS NOT A COMPETITION

Are you quick-witted, good at speaking and can even argue with your teachers? Always remember: A discussion is not a competition! If you focus on winning and talk the other person into the ground, only your ego wins - but the conversation loses. Just because the person you are talking to can no longer counter your arguments does not mean that you have convinced him or her.

2. LET EACH OTHER FINISH.

If you're constantly interrupted and can't say what you want, you'll get angry or mentally quit the conversation. The result: the discussion escalates or becomes a monologue. In any case, you can only answer "correctly" when you have heard everything your discussion partner had to say.

3. JUSTIFY YOUR POINT.

Of course, your opinion is important. But if you just throw your opinions at each other, the conversation won't move forward. Mere expressions of opinion, claims and slogans lead to the fronts becoming hardened. In order to start a conversation with each other, it is important to share why you think so. Justify your point of view with arguments and concrete examples and invite your counterpart to do the same.

4. LISTEN ACTIVELY.

Listen carefully when the other person speaks and try to understand what he or she is most concerned about. Summarize what you have received. For example: "If I understood you correctly, you think..." This is the only way to ensure that you have really understood what is important to the other person and to avoid misunderstandings. This procedure is called "active listening" in the theory of non-violent communication.

5. ASK YOUR QUESTIONS OPEN

The same rule of thumb applies to a discussion as to an interview: If you want to understand what makes the other person tick, you should ask as many open-ended questions as possible. In other words, questions that cannot simply be answered with yes or no and do not put an answer in the mouth of the person you are talking to. So, for example: "What speaks to you for or against making local public transport free?" instead of: "You don't want to take the subway without paying for it?" With open questions you signal sincere interest and lay a good basis for further conversation. The most important question for a successful debate: "Why do you think that...?"

6. FIND COMMON THINGS

Common ground can be found in every conversation and with every other person. It is worth mentioning these similarities. This creates a good atmosphere for further discussion. For example: "So we both agree that it is important to help people in need." Knowing where you agree and where your views differ also helps you navigate the debate less to go around in circles. You may even find that your views are less far apart than you originally thought.

7. STAY ON TOPIC

Anyone who feels pushed into a corner by arguments tends to suddenly change the subject or respond with counter-accusations that have nothing to do with the actual issue. For example, if someone complains about the increase in right-wing extremism, they often say: "And what about the left?" As if that would make right-wing extremist violence less dangerous. This unobjective conversation technique is called "whataboutism". So in German: "And what about...?" Don't join in on topic hopping and don't allow yourself to be distracted. Moderate the conversation and follow up: "I have the impression that this is a new point. Can you first explain to me what you meant when you...?" With a question like this you bring structure back into the conversation.

8. ARGUMENT AT EYE LEVEL

Anyone who teaches others shows that they feel superior. This comes across as arrogant and usually causes the other person to react defensively. Therefore, refrain from becoming "moral" and accusing the other person of where, in your opinion, he or she is behaving "badly". The sentence "All meat eaters are murderers" isn't necessarily a good way to start a discussion if the person you're talking to is into burgers. Instead of telling the other person what he or she should think or mean, ask specific questions and make personal connections. "Have you ever experienced something like this yourself?" Such a question could be. At best, this will make your conversation partner re-examine their own argument.

9. CRITICISM OBJECTIVELY

Just because you allow the other person to have their own opinion, you don't have to just leave incorrect information alone. Draw attention to factual errors, uncover hasty conclusions and also point out when your counterpart bases his argument on generalizations - for example, always talking about "THE cyclists" and "THE car drivers". A discussion can be sustained if gaps or contradictions in the argument

become clearly visible. But use your criticism specifically and sparingly - not every factual error or number transposition is important for the discussion. This also helps avoid open confrontation.

10. KEEP CALM

Emotions often run high in discussions. Even if the views are very opposite and you are very annoyed about the opinions of the person you are talking to, continue to only talk about the topic under discussion and leave out the fact that you may also be concerned about the person's clothing style others don't like it. Be careful not to offend the other person when you criticize them. Sometimes humor also helps to relax a conversation. If things do get emotional, talk about your feelings and those of the other person directly. For example: "I notice that this topic makes you/me very angry." This gives you an awareness of what is currently going wrong. In any case, the important thing is to stay calm.

11. CHANGE THE PERSPECTIVE

Discussions often fail not only because of different opinions, but also because of opposing values. In such cases, it can help to take the perspective of the other person. Think about how you could argue from the interviewer's position. If, for example, the protection of the family is particularly important to your counterpart and he or she is skeptical about the family reunification of refugees, you could try to argue against this background.

We have reviewed some important tips and advice for effective communication in foreign languages. I think that the above-mentioned ideas and opinions will effectively help everyone to develop speaking skills and conduct a conversation, which is one of the four main skills in learning foreign languages.

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