

Upper Intermediate – Be a successful non-native speaker

A. You've been given the chance to go to a two-week international conference called 'Young people most likely to change the world'. It will be held in India and attended by representatives from 28 different countries.

There will be lectures in English on a variety of subjects, and workshops in which you will have the opportunity to discuss topics with the other representatives.

You'll also go on outings to museums, art galleries and the theatre, when you'll be able to get to know the other delegates.

Think about which aspects of your communication skills in English you would like to improve in order to prepare for the conference.

B. You've got an intern job in in an international bank in London, England for four weeks this summer. The bank employs 150 people from all over the world.

Your job is in the press and public relations office and one of your main duties will be communicating with staff in the bank's 30 offices worldwide.

You'll be sharing a flat with people from Nigeria and Japan. You'll get weekends off, so you can sightsee in London.

Think about which aspects of your communication skills in English you would like to improve in order to prepare for the internship.

C. You're spending your summer as a camp counsellor in Canada for two months. You'll be responsible for leading groups of younger children, making sure they settle into camp and help with camp jobs such as cooking, cleaning up, etc., as well as supervising some sporting and leisure activities.

The children who come to the camp are from many different countries, not just North America. The other counsellors are from Brazil, Italy, China, Morocco and Canada. You'll be living on the camp with the other counsellors, and will get one day off a week to explore the mountains where the camp is located.

Think about which aspects of your communication skills in English you would like to improve in order to prepare for the summer camp.

Reflection Point

English has become the world's most common second language – used around the world between people who don't share a common first language. To communicate successfully in English, you need to be patient and search for ways to make communication work. It's also important to recognise and respect cultural differences.