

# [6 barriers to intercultural communication](https://assignbuster.com/6-barriers-to-intercultural-communication/)

There are six particular barriers to communication between people. These are anxiety, assumingsimilarities instead of difference, ethnocentrism, language problems, prejudice and stereotyping, andmisinterpretation of nonverbals. According to LaRay M.

Barna (1997), the developer of the list of sixbarriers, actual difficulties are mostly related to people with different cultures. The first barrier going to be discussed is high anxiety. The meaning of it is when a person feelsinconvenient when he or she does not know how to behave in some situations. The result is that thecommunication transaction fails. Along with my personal experience troubles occurred when I came to the Swiss Hotel ManagementSchool for the first time.

Everything was new and very unusual for me. For the first week I could neverunderstand what people expected from me. The style of living was absolutely dissimilar, that is whysometimes I did not how to behave. The next barrier to intercultural communication is assuming similarity instead of dissimilarity. Whenpeople are acting in a home manner in the different culture it might cause a lot of problems.

In order toprepare yourself for various circumstances it is very important to assume laws, habits, and attitudes ofanother society. For example, in Russia there is no such a thing as a ground floor. It starts directly from the first one. Some time ago in the age of seven I went to England, not having enough information about its customsand traditions at all. Thus I was totally lost inthat system.

Ethnocentrism is a third issue on the barrier list. It is based on the idea that your own race, nation, orgroup is better than any other. Usually ethnocentrism is common for people who come across the“ culture shock”. During the period of time when an individual is learning the new culture he might findthis novel worst than his home culture.

Taking as an example the Swiss Hotel Management School students. Some of…