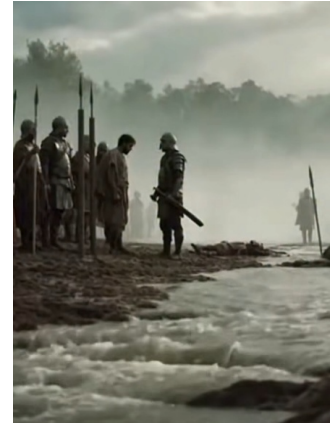


“Say now Shibboleth”

- *Then said they (the Gileadites) unto (Jephthah), Say now Shibboleth: and he said Sibboleth: for he could not frame to pronounce it right. Then they took him, and slew him at the passage of Jordan: and there fell at that time of the Ephraimites forty and two thousand. (Judges 12:1-6,)*

The Ephraimites...tried to cross the river by blending in. They looked like their brothers. They probably dressed the same. But one tiny sound betrayed them. They couldn't frame their mouths to say "Shibboleth." That single missing letter cost them their lives.

Elohim was teaching us that your tongue eventually reveals your true nature. You can fake your appearance, but you cannot fake your accent under pressure. When the enemy stands at the gate, he doesn't check your clothes; he checks your confession. If you cannot speak the language of the Kingdom correctly, you will be exposed at the crossing. It is not enough to look like a believer; you must have the specific, uncompromised testimony of the truth in your mouth.



Does your speech confirm that you belong to Elohim, or does your accent give you away as an imposter?

Note: Ver. 6. **Say now Shibboleth, and he said Sibboleth.**] Shibboleth *est fluxus fluminis, ut Psalms 69:2-3*, a stream, or ford. They were discerned by their lisp, their dialect betrayed them. {a} How many have we that can hardly lisp out a syllable of good language, and if they attempt it, falter fearfully! (Trapp, 1601-1669)

Discussion

This historic event serves as an anecdote for how important it is how we appear, how and what we speak to others. The Ephraimite was asked to say a specific word and his pronunciation alone condemned him and many others. Although the Gileadites and Ephraimites were of the same nation of Israel, their discord ended in a civil war and this encounter was decided by accent alone. There may come a time when the set-apart ones too will be judged by those outside the faith by a certain word or phrase that exposes themselves and others to danger.

As in the case of the children of Ammon and the Ephraimite people are all held accountable for what and how they spoke. Pronunciation, tenor of voice, accent and attitude in which one speaks are all important. **Master Yeshua** gave us a wonderful example of speaking in many situations. Consider the following.

While eating with tax collectors and sinners **Yeshua** was confronted by the Pharisees questioning His behavior. His response did not condemn them. No, **Yeshua** offered instructions to the Pharisees. Meekness [not weakness!] and love does not allow a place for hate in one's heart. Righteous love expresses compassion to others, even for the Pharisees who kept the Law, but for lack of spiritual understanding allowed traditions sometimes to supplant the Law. Ergo, it appeared to many that their behavior exposed their hypocrisy.

- *10 And it happened as He reclined in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners having come, these were reclining with **Yahshua** and His disciples. 11 And seeing, the Pharisees said to His disciples, Why does your teacher eat with tax*

collectors and sinners? **12** **12** But **Yahshua** hearing, He said to them, **The healthy are not in need of a doctor, rather those that are sick. 13** But going, learn what this is, **"I desire mercy and not sacrifice."** For I did not come to call righteous ones but sinners to repentance. **(Matt 9:12, 13, HRB2012)**

In contrast, when the Sadducees approached **Yahshua** to test His resolve with a riddle about marriage and resurrection His initial response was quite different. **Yeshua** knew their plan before they had even arrived. He answered them in like kind. He followed it up with a lesson He knew they would naturally reject - because the Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection and angels. The lesson? While I believe **Yeshua's** response had some element of humor, the lesson suggests that people should not question, reject, and deny matters they do not understand lest they reveal their ignorance.

- **18** And Sadducees came to Him, who say there is no resurrection. And they questioned Him, saying, **19** Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a brother of anyone should die and leave behind a wife, and leave no children, that his brother should take his wife and raise up seed to his brother. **20** Then there were seven brothers. And the first took a wife, and dying, he left no seed. **21** And the second took her, and died, and neither did he leave seed; and the third likewise. **22** And all seven took her and left no seed. Last of all, the woman also died. **23** Then in the resurrection, when they rise again, of which of them will she be the wife? For the seven had her as wife. **24** And answering, **Yahshua** said to them, **Do you not err because of this, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of YAHWEH? 25** For when they rise again from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels in Heaven. **(Mark 12:18-25)**

As in many locations around the USA the accents change. Subsequently, the pronunciation of some words sound much different than where others may live. In Arizona certain descriptive words to mark geographical locations were carried forward from older and foreign cultures. For example, the elevated mountain range that borders the Southern from the Northern regions is called the Mogollon Rim. The phonetic reading of this word is as its spelling for many. However, the local pronunciation is 'Ma-ge-yōn'. The word itself is from the earlier Spanish meaning 'a lot of something'. Newcomers to the region are quickly discerned upon pronouncing it.

With the Feast of Weeks soon upon us I am reminded of the Later Covenant expressed in the book of Hebrews () and start of the Apostles' missions found in **Acts 2**.

- **1** And in the fulfilling of the day of **Shavuot**, they were all with one mind in the same place.... **4** And they were all filled of the Holy Spirit, and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave ability to them to speak. **(Acts 2:1,4, AV)**

A similar event took place with one of the much quoted prophets by **Yeshua**, Isaiah.

- **5** Then I said, Woe is me! For I am cut off; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live amongst a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, YAHWEH of Hosts. **6** Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, snatched with tongs from the altar. **7** And he touched it on my mouth, and said, See, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is covered. **(Isa 6:5-7, HRB2012)**

In the book of Daniel we read about the King's criteria for selecting consultants from among the Hebrews.

3) And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;

4) Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.... 6) Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: 7) Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego. (*Dan 1:3-4, 6-7*), AV

Daniel/Belteshazzar - judge of God; God is my judge

Shadrach/Hananiah - rejoicing in the way; Yah has favored

Meshach/Mishael - guest of the king; who is what God is

Abdenego/Azariah - godly friend of Daniel; Yah has helped

Would today's set-apart ones be identified among those as were Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach; and Abednego? Ultimately, we all will answer for how we speak with others: What we say, how we speak, what our attitudes are when conversing with others in various situations. **Yeshua** instructs our replies to be "yes or no" (*Mat 5:7*). Says the *Hebrew Gospels from Sepharad* (... the Van Rensburgs), "**Let your speaking be, 'No,' 'Yes,' the rest is evil.**"

Summary

There is no better time than before attending **Yahweh's** feasts to review our personal manner to speech. The following is from a helpful article

Mastering the Art of Conversation: Dos and Don'ts of Wording

Effective communication is a cornerstone of personal and professional success. The words you choose can either build bridges or create barriers. By understanding the dos and don'ts of wording in conversation, you can improve your interpersonal skills and enhance your ability to engage and influence others. This article provides practical advice on how to word your conversations for maximum impact, along with examples to guide you.

The Dos of Wording in Conversation

Do Use Positive Language: Positive wording can change the entire tone of a conversation. It encourages a constructive response and fosters a positive interaction.

Example: Instead of saying "Don't forget to call the client," try "Please remember to call the client." It sounds more encouraging and less like a reprimand.

Do Be Clear and Concise: Clarity and brevity make your messages easier to understand and retain. Avoid ambiguity and overly complex language that might confuse the listener.

Example: Instead of saying "I was wondering if perhaps at some point you might like to consider joining us for a meeting to discuss future endeavors," try "Would you like to join us for a meeting to discuss future projects?"

Do Use Empathetic Language: Showing understanding and empathy can greatly enhance your connections with others. It helps in building rapport and trust.

Example: If someone is expressing frustrations about a project, respond with "It sounds like you've faced some challenging hurdles. How can I assist you?"

Do Ask Open-Ended Questions: These encourage more dialogue and provide you with better insights into the thoughts and feelings of others.

Example: Instead of asking "Did you like the presentation?" (which can be answered with a simple yes or no), ask "What did you think about the presentation?"

The Don'ts of Wording in Conversation

Don't Use Negative Language: Negative language can be off-putting and can provoke a defensive response.

Example: Avoid saying "That's a bad idea," and instead try "Let's explore other options that might also work."

Don't Make Assumptions: Assumptions can lead to misunderstandings. Clarify and verify before you respond.

Example: Instead of saying "I assumed you were okay with the changes," ask "Are you okay with the changes we discussed?"

Don't Use Jargon or Technical Terms Unnecessarily: Using complex terminology that the other party may not understand can create barriers.

Example: Rather than saying "We need to optimize our SEO strategies to enhance our SERP standings," explain it as "We need to improve our website's search engine ranking to get more visitors."

Don't Interrupt or Talk Over People: This can make others feel undervalued and hinder effective communication.

Example: If you have the habit of interrupting, practice pausing for a few seconds after the other person finishes speaking before you begin.

Conclusions

Effective wording in conversation is a skill that can be developed with practice and attention to detail. By following these dos and don'ts, you can enhance your ability to communicate effectively, build stronger relationships, and achieve more successful outcomes in both your personal and professional life. Remember, the way you phrase your words can significantly impact the effectiveness of your communication. (Unknown, 2026)

Self Presentation

Self presentation, attention and observation also project a message. Appearance is important when interacting with others in a social environment.

Presentation

* When applicable, dress for the occasion, but always try to stay clean and neatly dressed.

Attention

How one listens during a discussion is very important. Are you attentive to the other person's views, or seem aloof to the topic of conversation?

* Do not participate in conversations that are not relevant in yours and your friends and family's lives.

Body Language

When talking to other persons appearance and body language offers the receiver the opportunity to make quick assessments of the speaker's general nature.

We communicate in two ways: verbal and non-verbal. Here are some observations that reveal what your body can say.

WHAT IS NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION?

- Communicating without words
- Dictates up to 65% of conversation
- "Tells" – Reveals true feelings
- Everything must be considered in context
 - i.e. Licking your lips
- Posture/ Stance

- Gestures
- Facial Expression
- Clothing, Jewelry, Hairstyle, Tattoos

LEGS AND FEET

- "Dancing Feet" – Bouncing or wiggling feet
- Excited about something positive?
 - Impatient or bored?
 - Nervous or stressed?
- Direction of Feet
 - People speak toe to toe
 - Point our feet toward things we like, away from things we don't
- Leg Crossing
 - Toward the person we favor
- "Splayed" Feet (Further Apart, Larger Stance)
 - Can indicate defensiveness, marking territory
- Intention Movements
 - i.e. putting both hands on knees signals "I'm ready to go"

TORSO

- Lean – instinctively move away from things that make us uncomfortable
- Shoulder Shrug – indicates uncertainty
- "The Turtle" – Shoulders move up towards ears, neck disappears – can indicate guilt, discomfort, upset

ARMS

- Behind Back – The "Regal" Stance – Used to keep one's distance
- On Hips, Fingers Forward – Territorial display, establish dominance
- On Hips, Fists – Sign of defiance, disrespect
- On Hips, Fingers Backward – More friendly, less authoritarian

FACE

- Eyes, Lips
- Micro Expressions
- Can use facial cues to read emotions

The body can reveal a great deal about disposition. Watch closely for non-verbal cues in interactions. Remember to consider context before jumping to conclusions. Use knowledge of body language to clarify, ask questions, and communicate more clearly. (Kepro, 2012)

In his letter to the Colossians the Apostle Sha'ul (Paul) it was written,

- *5 Live with wisdom toward those outside, making the most of the time. 6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how it is necessary for you to answer each one. (Col 4:5-6, LEB)*

Have you read your bible today?

D. Lacy
SMin - TTSAOY
05/03/2026

References

- KePro (August 5, 2021). KePro: Body Language Beyond Words. PowerPoint Presentation. <https://www.uwp.edu/explore/offices/humanresources/upload/Body-Language-Beyond-Words.pdf>
- Unknown (2026, May 7). Mastering the Art of Conversation: Dos and Don'ts of Wording. Once in a Blue Moon: Discover Something New. <https://onceinabluemoon.ca/mastering-the-art-of-conversation-dos-and-donts-of-wording/>