

## **The Language Game: Genuine Cross-Cultural Communication Space**

The Language Game is a virtual cross-cultural communication environment that brings together English language speakers and learners of diverse cultural, linguistic and other backgrounds. Our topic-based sessions build your intercultural awareness and effective cross-cultural communication skills through immediate interaction with international peers in the English Language.

*The project is a joint effort supported by Harvard Graduate School of Education's faculty and graduates and Global Ambassador International Education.*

### **By joining the Language Game, you will learn to:**

- use the English language to communicate skillfully no matter your audience's background
- recognize cross-cultural differences that typically drive miscommunications
- acquire proven strategies to address such differences
- cross personal and cross-cultural boundaries gently and confidently
- speak the English language to open new opportunities
- better understand yourself and your culture

### **Pleasant bonuses:**

- expand your global outlook
- build your global network of acquaintances and friends
- gain cross-cultural teamwork experience
- improve your problem-solving skills

### **IS LANGUAGE GAME FOR ME?**

#### **Complete this simple checklist to decide:**

- You understand that speaking English goes beyond the pure knowledge of vocabulary and grammar.
- You realize that even if you speak English it does not mean that people understand you
- You plan to study or work internationally and want to feel comfortable doing it
- You mostly speak English to your teachers or classmates or people from similar backgrounds
- You look for meaningful exchanges on various issues, and learn about why people think or react the way they do
- You are a native English speaker or a learner of English (and your current level is above upper-intermediate)
- You want to know who you really are and what your culture means
- You are above 16 years of age

*If you checkmarked at least three of the boxes, we invite you to become a part of our global family.*

### **HOW THE LANGUAGE GAME WORKS**

Each session will focus on a specific communication aspect that is important in a cross-cultural context. Our work around the topic will generally be divided into several stages\*:

- **Expert opinion:** Our expert will share insights on the topic of discussion with a follow-up Q&A session from participants
- **Cross-cultural dialogues:** you will be assigned to work with an international peer and complete a targeted communication task. At the end of this part your peer will share with you how he perceived your strategy given one's cultural background.

- **Case-study problem-solving:** in this part you will yet be assigned to a new team of peers and as a group you will have to come up with a solution to a case, followed by a presentation to an expert.

*\* This is a tentative session structure and is subject to change as we are testing and trying different approaches to improve your experience.*

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### **Upcoming session:**

#### **The Art of Disagreeing in Cross-Cultural Contexts**

*with Bruno della Chiesa & Evgeniya Efremova*

**When:** 25 April 2020

**Time:** 6pm (UTC+5)

**Linguistic requirement:** B2 or above

### **During this session you will:**

- Learn about the typical differences in the culture of disagreement across the globe and useful strategies to recognize signs when something 'goes wrong'
- Practice 'disagreement' with an international peer and receive honest feedback about your word's emotional impact.
- Solve and present a case-study as a part of an internationally mixed team and receive feedback from an expert

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### **Bruno della Chiesa**

A former diplomat, Bruno della Chiesa is originally a linguist trained at the Universities of Bonn and Paris Sorbonne. He created and led the project "Learning Sciences and Brain Research " (1999-2008) at the OECD's Center for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI). Since 2008, Bruno has been teaching at the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) a yearly course entitled "Learning in A Globalizing World: language acquisition, cultural/global awareness, and cognitive justice". He has lived in France, Germany, Egypt, Mexico, Austria, and in the USA. A self-defined "pluricultural European", he speaks and writes in English, French, German and Spanish.

View [Wikipedia article](#)

### **Evgeniya Efremova**

Evgeniya Efremova serves as Academic Director at Global Ambassador International Education & Consulting Company and a Researcher at the Brain & Neurocognitive Development Lab. Her main areas of expertise lie in competitive university admissions & Academic English training programs for non-native English speaker (IELTS, TOEFL, etc.) She is also engaged in research on teacher-student motivation in ESL acquisition, effective strategies in EAP acquisition. Evgeniya has extensive international experience. After graduating from the Catlin Gabel School (OR, USA), she received her Bachelor Degree at Mount Holyoke College in the United States. While an undergraduate student, she studied abroad at East China Normal University (Shanghai, China) and worked at Korea's Institute for International Economic Policy in Seoul, South Korea and CH-ina, Swiss business consulting company in Shanghai, China. In 2009 she completed post-graduate training at Johns-Hopkins Nanjing Center in Nanjing, China. In 2014 Evgeniya finished a certificate program at Harvard Sumer School on College Admissions, USA. In 2018, Evgeniya received her Master in Education in Mind, Brain and Education at Harvard University, USA. Evgeniya leveraged her international education & work experiences as a partner at Global Ambassador, an international education and language training institute, that

prepares international students for competitive university enrollment & scholarship application in the US, Canada, UK, Germany, Netherlands and other countries. She takes a research-based approach to developing training programs in Academic English for non-native learners and applicant preparation strategy that accounts for differences in cultures, languages and educational systems. Evgeniya's students were accepted and successfully graduated from such universities as Harvard, Columbia, NYU, Warwick University, UCL, London School of Economics and Political Sciences and many others.