Introduction to Interacting With Others

Discuss these questions in a small group. Ask one group member to provide a summary of your discussion to the class.

1. In which social situations do you find interacting with others difficult? Why?
2. How comfortable do you feel expressing a viewpoint that is not shared by others in social situations? Why?
3. Have you ever had to give someone criticism about their work or behaviour? How did you broach the subject?
4. How do you usually react when your work or your behavior is criticized?

"E-mails, memos - it's ridiculous! You should start talking to people again."

source: www.businesscartoons.co.uk/shop

Culture Note

Canadian workplaces are diverse, not only because employees are from many different cultural backgrounds, but also because, regardless of their culture, they can have vastly different communication styles and life experiences. These differences can sometimes lead to misunderstandings.

It is important to be aware that your way of communicating and your perceptions can differ from those of others. Keeping an open mind, being flexible and tolerant of differences, and not generalizing about others will help you get along well in a diverse workplace. In addition, learning about your co-workers’ cultural backgrounds will help you avoid miscommunication and contribute to your success at work.