

## Mediation (Sprachmittlung)

Mediation means enabling spoken or written communication between people who do not share a common language.



While **translating** means rendering a text word for word into another language, **mediation** means getting the message across so that its recipients can understand.

You can facilitate communication across the language barrier if you adjust to your recipient's **status**, **knowledge** and **cul-**  
**tural norms**.

Therefore, render the message in your recipients' tongue by adjusting to their –

- **status** by using
  - forms of address
  - a suitable register i.e. formal or informal
  - indirectness or bluntness
- **knowledge** by
  - focusing on the main points
  - leaving out irrelevant bits or giving additional information
  - rearranging the structure of the original text
- **cultural norms** by
  - using references or imagery they are familiar with
  - using euphemisms
  - leaving out offensive details if they are not essential or by making it clear that they do not reflect your own view

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