A SIMPLE SOLUTION TO FIX WORKPLACE MISCOMMUNICATION

TED Ideas worth spreading

Watch the video and complete the blanks

The "sure" incident:

"Defeated, he admitted that he 1. _____ my 'sure' to mean 'Meh, this is OK, I guess.' That simple 'sure' 2. _____ my entire team. And that's just one small example of 3. _____. But think about the bigger ones. How many times have you or your team gone down the wrong path on a project, or felt frustrated by 4. _____ of progress...?"

The business impact:

So this isn't just about being nice and diplomatic. Miscommunication is expensive. It hurts employee 5. _____, it 6. _____ progress and it increases 7. _____."

Working with different profiles:

"Perhaps surprisingly, Kate is an introvert. She prefers 8. _____ communication so that she can thoughtfully process her ideas. [...] Then there's my colleague Mike. Mike would never respond to the messages I would send him on our internal messaging system. He would just 9. _____ me. [...] So I 10. _____ the situation and I said, 'What's wrong with me?

Read the text and choose the correct options to complete the blanks

Communication in Tech Leadership

Transitioning from a pure software engineer to a management role introduces a massive shift in responsibilities. Suddenly, your primary output isn't clean code, it's human alignment. One of the most prevalent pitfalls in this transition is severe (1) _____, particularly over written channels. When a team lead relies too heavily on short, ambiguous messages via text tools, a critical update can easily be (2) _____ by junior team members who don't possess the full context.

For instance, when engineering metrics drop or a feature deployment is delayed, an ambiguous or sudden silence from leadership causes substantial friction. Instead of remaining objective, engineers may start (3) _____ the situation, immediately imagining worst-case organizational outcomes. This state of constant anxiety heavily damages overall team (4) _____, driving engineers to lose enthusiasm for their daily sprints.

When an entire engineering pod is (5) _____ by panic or confusion, productivity completely (6) _____, and milestones are missed. If a manager continually avoids clear follow-ups, or actively (7) _____ their developers during tense stand-ups, trust erodes entirely. The long-term consequence of a persistent (8) _____ of transparent communication is a highly unstable department, eventually leading to a spike in employee (9) _____.

To prevent these structural failures, modern tech leaders are redefining how they interact. Striking a healthy balance between deep focus and structural updates means implementing strict corporate norms. This often includes prioritizing structured (10) _____ communication to protect focus blocks, while ensuring that live touchpoints remain actionable, clear, and context-rich.

LIVEWORKSHEETS