

Watch the video (or read the text) and choose the correct answers for the questions below.

Hello. I'm Heather Hanson, global communication specialist at Hanson Communication Lab, and welcome back to part 6 of the Speak Global English series. How native and non-native speakers hear English differently. A lot of my clients come to me quite confused saying that some people understand them perfectly, while others don't seem to understand a word they say. This divide is normally along the lines of native and non-native speakers.

Jean Paul Nerriere, a Frenchman living in Japan and working for IBM, was one of the first people to recognize that nonnative English speakers were actually able to understand each other better when they spoke to each other than when they spoke with a native English speaker. How could that be? How could it be true when they were all speaking a foreign language? Well, most, not all, but most native English speakers grow up hearing only one language, their own variety of English. Nonnative speakers hear many different kinds of English as they learn the language and therefore have a better ear when it comes to understanding others.

Native speakers also listen for subtle nuances of the language that nonnative speakers don't particularly care about. We listen for word stress and intonation patterns to give us more information. Nonnative speakers ignore all of that to focus more on vocabulary. So this is why we can end up having more miscommunication when native speakers are involved. We hear the English language differently.

This is why it's so important for not only non-native speakers, but also native speakers to pay attention to their speech in international settings and also make an honest effort to understand others. Nonnative speakers, I'll also be sharing some tips with you in upcoming videos as to how you can speak in a way that native speakers can better understand. If you'd like your teams to start paying closer attention to their speech, visit hansenkomlab.com for more information on training opportunities. Or come join the revolution at speakglobalenglish.org. I'll see you next time with part 7 of this 22 part global English video series.

1. What is Heather Hanson's role?

- A) Marketing Director
- B) Global Communication Specialist
- C) Sales Manager

2. What is the main topic of part 6 in the Speak Global English series?

- A) The structure of the English language
- B) How native and non-native speakers hear English differently
- C) The importance of English grammar

3. What confusion do Heather's clients express?

- A) Some people understand them perfectly while others don't
- B) People find their accent hard to understand
- C) Everyone understands them easily

4. Who was Jean Paul Nerriere?

- A) An American working in Japan
- B) A Frenchman working for IBM in Japan
- C) An English teacher in Japan

5. Why might non-native English speakers understand each other better than native speakers?

- A) They are used to hearing various English accents
- B) They are fluent in multiple languages
- C) They only focus on grammar

6. What aspect of language do native speakers tend to focus on more than non-natives?

- A) Vocabulary
- B) Grammar
- C) Word stress and intonation

7. What does Heather Hanson encourage both native and non-native speakers to do?

- A) Practice grammar exercises
- B) Pay attention to their speech in international settings
- C) Learn multiple languages

8. What is Heather's goal for non-native speakers in future videos?

- A) To help them sound like native speakers
- B) To teach them how to improve their vocabulary
- C) To show ways to help native speakers understand them better