


Listening Activity Icebreaker:

Instructions: Pass out the Listening Activity Handout. Tell participants to listen and follow the instructions. (Don't reveal answers until the end.)

1. Put a dot on the i
2. BB = Baby Bull, MB = Mama Bull, PB = Papa Bull. Baby bull gets hurt; who does he go to for help?
3. Write the word candy in the spaces
4. Your mother calls and asks you to bring home meat, cereal, cheese, milk, bread, apples, carrots, toilet paper, flour, and orange juice. You arrive home with meat, bread, milk and flour. What did you forget?
5. You are the driver of a school bus. At the first stop, 13 kids get on, at the second stop 5 get on and 2 get off, at the 3rd stop 2 get on and 1 gets off, at the fourth stop 1 kid gets on and at the 5th stop 3 get on and 2 get off. How old is the bus driver?

When everyone is finished, discuss the responses:

1. I didn't say to exactly how to "put a dot on the i". While some people may have interpreted this to mean, dotting the "i", others may take it literally and place the dot right "on" the "i" like this:  (Write on board). There are opportunities for misunderstanding even in very basic communication.
2. What is a bull? So the answer is probably Papa Bull since there's no such thing as a Mama Bull
3. Some people might take this literally and put the letters not on the lines but in the spaces, like this: C_A_N_D_Y . (Write on board.) We tend to filter everything we hear through our own personal biases. Is one more correct than the other?
4. Anybody get this? Sometimes when we give too much information at once, critical pieces of information get lost.
5. Who is the bus driver? Since "you're the bus driver", the answer is your own age. What got in the way of you hearing this? When we speak off topic (who got on and off wasn't important), critical pieces of information get lost.