



# Different People; Same Respect

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Anyone who has read *The Little Prince* must have seen the quote, “Language is the source of misunderstandings”. Indeed, words are the most fundamental means of delivering thoughts. If you do not speak out your opinions or whatever you want others to know, do not expect anyone to try to read your mind and figure out how you feel. But

the problem is: how will you speak out?

There are a nearly infinite number of factors affecting the way you speak, for instance, your emotions, your attitude, the listener, and so forth. The people whom you are talking to affect the way you speak relatively greatly. You thus tend to use different tones and wordings in conversations

with different people. Of course, we act more casually and comfortably when we speak to our family and friends. On the other hand, our talking with unfamiliar people, the authorities and patricians, may involve more formality and respect. This is absolutely the norm of practice. However, Albert Einstein has once said, "I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university," quite contradicting the above mentioned phenomenon. But if you talk to your friends the way you talk to your principal, would it not be too distant and uneasy? Or would it be too disrespectful if it is the other way round?

Let's think from a different perspective. Would you talk to a waiter at McDonald's the same way you talk to one at Restaurant Gordon Ramsay? Why or why not? Do you

think people of a higher social rank deserve more respect? This is exactly what Einstein meant: everyone deserves the same amount of respect. I am sure you wouldn't want to be looked down on by anybody even if he is in any way superior. No matter whether someone is the chief executive or an idle homeless guy, praise and compliment him whenever he deserves it and, if the need arises, point out his fault or flaws correctly and peacefully. You expect people to treat you the way you treat them, and that's why you should speak to others the way you want to be spoken to.

It does not matter what tone of voice and words you use when you speak to others as long as you express respect in your speech, and this is what we mean by speaking to everyone in the same way.

