



However hard you try, carrying out an English conversation can sometimes be a bit tricky. With a little practice though, you can easily impress friends and colleagues. Below is an example of 'how not to say it' and 'how to say it'. In many instances, it's not about whether something is grammatically correct. Rather, it simply comes down to how native speakers express themselves. And it often involves very nuanced differences that will help you sound professional.

In the dialogue below, Michael is speaking to the human resources department to try and find out more about returning to the office after working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wrong!

M: Yesterday human resources sent me an e-mail to say we could return to the office soon. I feel myself happy!

HR: Yes, that's correct. Our re-entry strategy will start over the next few weeks.

M: I'm worried about travelling to the office on public transport. Normally I travel with the bus.

HR: You don't need to worry. We will provide special company buses, which will be cleaned daily.

M: Very good. But how many persons will there be on each bus?

HR: A maximum of 20 passengers per bus. We will ensure adequate social distancing.

M: OK, that's good. I'm relieved. Otherwise I was planning to drive my bicycle.

HR: That won't be necessary. The buses will run every working day.

M: Great, thanks for your help. Then we'll see us soon!