

WHOOPS! DID I JUST SAY THAT?

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 following dialogue, Stephan is on a conference call with a US colleague, Louise, to discuss a planned product launch.

### Wrong!

L: Hello Stephan and thanks for joining me on this call today. What do you think about our plans for this new product launch? Have you had time to look at them yet?

S: Thanks for invite me to have a look on your plans. It looks for me like you have too much planned before your deadline. I would suggest that you it push back, so you have time to run a successful marketing campaign.

L: Thanks for your feedback. We definitely want to launch the product before the holidays, though, so we can't move the deadline. Out of interest, what concrete changes did you have in mind?

S: Personally, I could care less about the holidays. I really think you need to more work on the marketing.

L: It's true that we have neglected the marketing side, and I know that is your expertise. Would you be prepared to help us?

S: Yes, I can be at your beckon call until the project is finished.

L: We would certainly appreciate your assistance. Could you prioritize the project over the next week or two?

S: A client is pushing for a website to go live, but to all intensive purposes we're ready. As soon as that is live, I can focus solely on your project.

L: We would certainly welcome your help. Are you free to talk at the same time tomorrow?

S: Naturally. Until tomorrow!

### Right!

L: Hello Stephan and thanks for joining me on this call today. What do you think about our plans for this new product launch? Have you had time to look at them yet?

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S: A client is pushing for a website to go live, but to all intents and purposes we're ready. As soon as that is live, I can focus solely on your project.

L: We would certainly welcome your help. Are you free to talk at the same time tomorrow?

S: Of course. Speak to you tomorrow!