

New RAM English Zone Typical mistakes 9

T: Welcome back to the New RAM English Zone on typical mistakes in English.

N: Today, we'll be looking at typical mistakes when making a telephone call.

T: Everyone seems to be playing with their phones all the time these days.

N: You seem to do it a lot as well.

T: Yes, the telephone is incredibly useful for internet, banking, games etc...

N: But primarily it is a phone and used to call to people. e.g. to call to my friend.

T: You can't say that. You should say 'I called my friend'.

N: That's right- without the word 'to'.

T: The telephone you carry with you is of course a mobile, but what about the one at the office?

N: Stationary phone?

T: No, that is another poor translation from Polish *telefon stacjonarny*. This should be called a landline.

N: Sometimes it is hard to hear what someone is saying on the telephone because the signal is bad.

T: Signal, from the Polish *sygnal* is also a bad translation. You would rather say, the 'reception' is bad.

N: And finally, this is a cultural, not linguistic point, when ending a phone call in English it is polite and expected that you say, with a rising intonation bye!

T: Yes, just saying, bye is considered very rude.

N: Let's sum up:

T: Telephones are used to call people. E.g. I called Agnieszka last night.

N: telephones come in two varieties – a mobile and a landline phone.

T: If you have trouble hearing someone on the telephone, this might be due to bad reception.

N: At the end of a call, it is always polite to say, with a rising intonation 'bye'.

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N: With Terry Clark-Ward and Nick Thomas.