

## **New RAM English Zone Typical mistakes 2**

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

V: Today, we'll be looking at what to say and what not to say when making someone feel welcome.

T: English people are usually very polite and the language is full of polite, indirect expressions.

V: So, imagine having a guest from England. They come to your home. Instead of saying 'Sit down' which is direct and in fact could be rude, it is better to say 'Please, take a seat'.

T: That's right and instead of saying 'Give me your coat', it is better to ask 'Can I take your coat?'

V: And then the next logical thing to do – and many people struggle with this is to offer a drink to their guest.

T: Yes, offering tea or coffee seems easy enough, but it can be complicated.

V: Yes, do you want tea or coffee? is correct, but again, very direct. It is more polite to ask 'Can I get you something to drink?'

T: And if the answer is 'Tea please' or 'Coffee please', you should then say 'how do you take it?'

V: What does that mean?

T: That is an open question so that the person can give information about their drinking preferences. For example 'white, no sugar' or 'black, 2 sugars'.

V: OK. Let's sum up:

T: Hi, good to see you again. Come in. Please, take a seat.

V: Thank you.

T: Can I take your coat?

V: Certainly. Here you are.

T: And can I get you something to drink?

V: Tea, please.

V: How you take it?

T: White, no sugar.

V: Remember, English people drink tea with milk. And you might think that is weird (dziwny) but we think it is weird when you drink it with lemon.

T: Tune in tomorrow to hear more solutions to typical mistakes in another typical situation.

V: New Ram English Zone on typical mistakes

T: With Terry Clark-Ward and Verity Duncan.