

Communicating With Your Freelancers when Outsourcing Your Projects Through Freelance Websites Online

Having good communication skills is one of the most important skills you will need to develop in the outsourcing game. Projects can fail, freelancers can misunderstand you and feedback can be poorer without it if you haven't made improving your communication skills a priority. There are many aspects of communication you will need to focus on when communicating with your freelancers. Doing it right can sometimes mean the difference between a sub par experience and an excellent one. Finally it must be noted that as always communication is a two way street and you need to find yourself a freelancer who acknowledges this.

Are you speaking the same language?

Most outsourcers speak English. However, that English can range from sub par to absolutely brilliant. In most projects an average grasp of English is sufficient but in a few areas of outsourcing, nothing but a fluent, possibly native and excellent grasp of English will do. You will need to know what your project ultimately needs and what level of speaking and writing of English you require.

How will you communicate?

Most of the large freelance sites have their own chatting/ email service, which will suffice as they also send copies of your messages to your personal inbox as well. However, sometimes you will need more flexible methods of communicating. Depending on the level of interaction you might try using Skype, Messenger, or other online chat services. If you absolutely must reach them you might even consider calling their phone but be prepared for the phone bills!

How often will you communicate?

When can you get too much of a good thing? When it comes to the frequency of your communication it's best to lay down your expectations at the start. If you require a daily or weekly report then say so and expect it. If you need to be updated hourly (sounds a bit much?) then say that too. Also note when you will be away or unavailable and demand to know the same from your outsourcers.

Having good communication skills means talking the same language, knowing how you will communicate and how often, and also knowing when you can't or won't be available. With all of these aspects of discussion taken care of at the beginning you can then get on with the outsourcing task at hand.

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