

**Examples of common American-Israel cultural misunderstandings**

These kinds of situations, if not correctly addressed, can sabotage working together

<b>When an American says....</b>	<b>The American may mean...</b>	<b>An Israeli might hear / think...</b>
We may have some challenges here.	There are problems here that must be solved.	Great -- finally things are getting interesting, challenge is good.
I might do this differently	The way it is getting done now is wrong and needs to be changed.	How you would do it isn't relevant, since there doesn't sound like there's any problem with the way we're doing it already.
Did I understand you correctly when you said Y?	I am amazed that you said something so wrong or stupid.	Looks like I need to explain again because they didn't understand the first time.
I would appreciate if you could get this to me by Thursday.	The drop dead deadline for this is Thursday.	It would be nice to get it done by Thursday, but not essential. Later than Thursday will also be OK.

<b>When an Israeli says...</b>	<b>The Israeli may mean...</b>	<b>An American might hear / think...</b>
You have to listen to me	I want to get your attention	You're ordering me around, how insulting!
You are wrong	I disagree with your point of view and want to discuss it some more so that we can reach agreement on the correct view	There's no room for discussion. Better back off.
Your presentation was OK	Your presentation was really good	You didn't like my presentation.
Why don't you do it another way?	I'm giving you a helpful suggestion.	You are really insulting my work.

*Adapted (in part) with permission of Lucy Shahar*