

Understanding One Another

Pre-reading

Questions:

- Have you ever met someone who speaks a different language than you? When? How did you communicate with him or her?

Definitions:

- Understanding – to know the meaning of something
- Communicate – to share thoughts, feelings, or information by talking, writing, and/or using actions
- Shy – afraid to talk with people
- Break time – a short time to stop work
- Logo – a design printed on paper
- Nod – to move your head up and down



Photo courtesy of Duke University's
Hart Leadership Program

Reading

14 It's break time at the turkey plant. Workers are visiting with one another in
28 the break room. Reem is shy about talking with co-workers. She does not know
much English.

30 "Hi," says a co-worker. "My name is Val. What is your name?" Val points
44 to Reem as she asks the question. "Reem," says Reem.

54 "It's nice to meet you, Reem. I'm new here. How long have you worked at
69 the turkey plant?" asks Val. "Me no English," says Reem. Val tries again. "One
83 week. I have worked here one week." She points to the plant logo on a sheet of
100 paper. "How long have you worked here?"

107 Reem nods her head to show she understands. She says, "One month." Val
120 replies, "We are both new to the job." They smile.

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Level 2.0

Understanding

1. Where do Val and Reem meet? _____

2. Who does not speak much English? _____

3. What does Val do to help Reem understand her? _____

4. What does Reem do to show Val that she understands her? _____

5. How long has each woman worked at the turkey plant? _____

Writing

Choice A: Retell the story in your own words.

Choice B: Write about a time when someone did not understand you. What did you do?
