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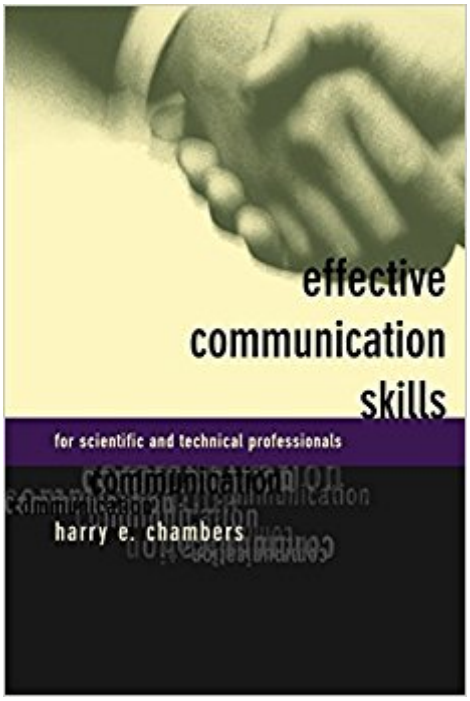
# Effective Communication Skills For Scientific And Technical Professionals

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## Synopsis

Flatter, more collaborative organizational structures, combined with the pressure to translate innovative ideas into action quickly, are increasing the need by technical professionals-such as computer programmers, design specialists, engineers, and R&D scientists-to expand their repertoire of communication and managerial skills. In this highly accessible and practical book, Harry Chambers offers a wealth of strategies and tactics for building these skills, to the benefit of individuals, teams, and companies. In his trademark shoot-from-the-hip style, Chambers identifies specific real-world challenges that technical professionals face in the workplace, and offers definitive guidelines for enhancing their communication skills-from making presentations to giving and receiving criticism to navigating office politics. Featuring interviews with people in the trenches, as well as self-assessment tools and exercises, Effective Communication Skills will become a valued resource for technical professionals and their colleagues, trainers, and HR departments in all industries.

## Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Basic Books; Reprint edition (December 26, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0738202878

ISBN-13: 978-0738202877

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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## Customer Reviews

While dealing with scientific and technical professionals (STPs, he labels them) during his management career, Harry Chambers recognized that many of his colleagues were not able to share their expertise clearly enough, whether they were writing and speaking to their counterparts, or whether they were addressing people beyond their areas. So he wrote this book as a guideline for the STPs. I applaud Chambers' writing style--competent enough to please an educated audience, yet folksy enough to illustrate that stuffiness isn't required for explaining complicated

ideas. The book underscores the widely accepted observation that people who get promoted because of their expertise may score very poorly when they try to manage a team. To equip STPs for management, Chambers offers advice about how to relate well to your boss, develop listening skills, serve customers, direct meetings, give and receive critism, and other vital topics. As a former university faculty member, I vote for placing this book in every campus library, and making it required reading for those pursuing the B.S. degree. To STPs who have their degrees already, I suggest that Effective Communication Skills for Scientific and Technical Professionals merits your close study. Although Chambers admits that "becoming a highly skilled communicator is not easy," this book makes the assignment easier.

In the past, I always believed I was a good communicator, yet many times I would get a "look" from others that told me they were not with me. So, I purchased the Communication Skills for Scientific and Technical People. Since I am a computer programmer and frequently find myself in situations that need very clear instruction this book fit right into my needs. It was great! What I learned cannot be counted in monetary value and I know that I will continue to use the techniques in my everyday enounters with my peers as well as on a personal level. Thank you Mr. Chambers for your insight and direction.

I was looking for good communication book and this is not one. It’s mostly common sense that mentioned scientific and technical professionals but nothing special for that group. I scanned the book and threw it. Good thing I bought used.

Mr. Chambers has put together a practical book that dissects many of the basic concepts of communication, and provides some insights about technical professionals. While I don’t agree with all his points and believe he tends to over-generalize, the content is solid and easy to understand. For any technical professional looking to increase their overall mastery of soft skills, I would recommend they go beyond this book and find a good set of workshops that allow for testing and practicing the types of concepts outlined.

This book explains the difficulties in the communication among technical persons as well as between technical and non-technical persons. From my own experience I know that talking to technical experts can be very painful. At times they just shout at you and don’t listen to what you say. They think that their expertise gives them the right to treat everyone else bad.The best chapter

in this book is chapter 4 "giving and receiving criticism". In the past I had difficulties to convey my critical commentsto technical experts and software developer. As they are very proud of their own work you need to take a lot of care not hurt them. The best way is to explicity state what they have done good before you say what they could do better to even improve their work. I am sure that I can apply these tipps in my work placeThis book ist must-read for everyone in a technical environment and for everyone dealing with technical experts.

I gave copies of this book to everyone I managed at Microsoft. I can’t say enough good things about it. There is nothing more important in the workplace than being able to get your point across and making sure you understand what is being said to you. The basic philosophy is, "all communication failures are your fault." It is your responsibility to make sure that what you are saying is understood, and it is your responsibility to make sure that you understand what you are being told. There is never a place for finger-pointing when communication breaks down. This book gives techniques, examples, and ideas to help ensure that information is transmitted and received properly. What’s really interesting is that there is nothing that limits what he’s talking about to the workplace. There are things to think about here that apply to dealing with family and friends, without the fluff you get in similar books in the self-help section.

I found this book to flow well, giving a lot of good tips on how to conduct better communications in a business/commercial environment. The layout is fairly simple to navigate, and sections that are uninteresting can easily be skipped. For those with more constrained time schedules, the book contains notes in most sections that give highlights of the main points that are made. Reading just these notes would give a pretty good review of the material, or exposure that may or may not make a lasting impression.There are quite a few lists and tables that sum up the "need-to-know" points, so I think that reviewing material after reading the full text should be an easy task. I highly recommend this text for anyone that has never been taught effective listening skills, and also recommend the book for anyone else that feels even a slight motivation to improve their inter-personal communication skills.

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