



LEARNING AND TEACHING CONFERENCE

2021

The University of Tomorrow

De Montfort University Annual Learning and Teaching Conference

Friday 5 February 2021

Title of Session: Say it Right
Presenters: Kaozara Oyalowo and Heena Qamar Chaperon

Questions and Answers from the session:

Q. When someone signs off with a shortened version of their name, should we respond with their full name or shortened version

If someone has signed off with a name, this is the name we should use. We should aim to use the name that someone has offered us.

Q. What advice do you have for people who really struggle to remember pronunciations?

We all have different memory abilities and lots of us struggle!

If you are seeing someone in person, you can open the conversation to allow them to correct you "Forgive me, can you remind me how to pronounce your name? I want to make sure I get it right".

This shows that you won't get defensive or upset if they correct you.

Another bit of advice is asking if they don't mind if you write it in a way you will remember such as phonetically or with the accents/tones or highlighting the letters that need emphasised. You can ask if there is a word that follows the same pattern such as a word that rhymes. This allows you to practice yourself.

I want to get involved with the Say it Right Campaign.

We are asking staff and students with non-English sounding names to send us a short 30sec max video to dsucomms@dmu.ac.uk. This should include (their name, pronunciation, the meaning of their name).

My name is...

That is pronounced...

The meaning of my name is...

Important points made by attendees

"It's understanding the power dynamics involved. People rarely mispronounce their bosses name."

"Names can be wrongly recorded, I often find things have been filed under a different letter due to the apostrophe in my name."

"It might help to rhyme the letter with another word to aid pronunciation."

"I've found that I always spell out my surname when asked for it for the first time."

"If we really take the time to get people's names correctly, we can really create a sense of belonging."