



Cultural Linguistic Services
OFFICE OF HUMAN RESOURCES
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Employee Learning Center English Learning Newsletter

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Using “matter”:

We use the word **matter** in different ways:

Matter = subject, topic

- We have an important **matter** to discuss.
- The **matter** is under consideration.
- That’s an inappropriate **matter** for this meeting.

Matter = be important, significant

- What **matters** most to you?
- Why does that **matter**?
- It doesn’t **matter**.
- Black Lives **Matter**.

Check a dictionary for others!

Phrases for conversation:

Use these phrases to ask someone who seems upset about what is bothering them:

- **What’s the matter?**
- **What’s wrong?**
- **What’s bugging you?**
- **What’s going on?**
- **Are you OK?**



Learn More and Find Help:

For free, confidential support from professional counselors who can help employees with personal and work-related problems, go to the UW Employee Assistance Office (EAO) Life Matters page:

<https://hr.wisc.edu/employee-assistance-office/lifematters/>



Famous example:

Michael Jordan became a successful basketball player by creating a system to accomplish his goals and holding on to his dream **no matter what** (despite any difficulties). Whenever he reached a goal, he says, “I set another goal, a reasonable, manageable goal that I could realistically achieve if I worked hard enough. I knew exactly where I wanted to go, and I focused on getting there.”



Idioms:

“Mind over matter” = control a physical problem by using your mind. **I’m not going to let the hot weather bother me. Mind over matter!**

“As a matter of fact” = actually; in fact. **As a matter of fact, the humidity is worse than the heat.**

“No matter” = no worries; it’s not important. **Yes, it’s hot, but no matter!**