

Writing contest: win an Amazon gift certificate

A listener recently emailed offering some constructive criticism about my voice in our podcasts. I'm always grateful for tips on how we can improve our podcasts, and I am quite sure that she meant to be helpful. However, because of the language she chose, her critique sounded rather harsh. If I didn't know how difficult it is to express yourself in a foreign language, I probably would have been offended. Luckily, I DO understand and am thankful for the advice

Being too direct and harsh when giving (constructive) criticism or making requests is a very common problem for my students, so I've decided to use this authentic email as a writing contest for you.



TASK

Your task is to rewrite the in the yellow box below to get the point across more tactfully. Of course, your spelling and grammar should be good too. ;-)

DEADLINE

The deadline for your entries is 00:01 UTC Tuesday 7 August.

HOW TO ENTER

Post your rewritten text as a response to [this topic on our forum](#). You'll have to join the forum, but it's easy. And FREE. Here is the URL if you can't click the link in the document:
<http://www.betteratenglish.com/forum/index.php?topic=42.0>

How do you win? I'll choose the rewritten email that I think is best.

PRIZE

The prize is a **25-Euro gift certificate from the Amazon online bookstore**. We had some generous donations this month, so it's nice to be able to give something back to our dedicated listeners!

REWRITE THIS

Hi Lori It would really help me and I'm sure a lot of others like me, if you'd speak with your natural voice, not so high pitched. I was listening to the phrasal verbs on your website (the episode about spending money) and I was really turned off by your animated speaking.

Good luck!

P.S: I agree with her critique. My delivery in the early “2-minute English” podcasts SUCKED! :-p