

## Notions abordées : « Espaces et Echanges »

An interview with Lance Strate, US, communications specialist

Questions by Shelly De Vito

# Paralanguage

**Shelly:** Now, you are quoted several times in the article from the International Business Times concerning fillers in the American language. Is that something that you studied?

**Lance Strate:** Well it's actually a...a basic element in what would be covered and a basic course of communication, as part of a unit on non-verbal communication. People tend to think of non-verbal communication as being about body language, gestures, posture and...and that sort of thing, but there's actually a whole area of speech that doesn't involve words: the verbal component of communication, but things like tone of voice, and rhythm in speaking and pronunciation; accents, dialect and all that sort of thing. And it also includes those sounds we make that are not technically considered words, and all of that together is called paralanguage, you know, that is it's not language but it's related to language and...and so fillers or interjections or, you know, filled pauses, the "uhs" the "aahhs", the "you know", like "like", "ok?", that we use, they're a kind of verbal punctuation marks in speech, and that is part of this area of paralanguage.