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When you establish rapport with your audience, they become your partners in a dialog, allies in your presentation. Theyll want you to succeed. Theyll overlook your nervousness and lack of polish. Theyll laugh at jokes theyve heard before. And theyll give you the benefit of the doubt even if they lose the thread of your logic.Here are eight ways to build rapport with any audience:1. Talk to people before your presentation begins.Introduce yourself as people gather. Shake hands. Ask them about themselves, what they do, and why they are there. Smile.2. Have your audiences best interests at heart.Use your presentation as an opportunity to serve your audience, not to impress or sell them.3. Establish eye contact.Look people in the eye one person at a time. Hold their gaze for 5 to 7 seconds, and then look someone else in the eye. (A word of caution: some cultures consider direct eye contact intrusive and rude, so be careful.)4. Speak simply and with conviction.Dont give a speech; have a conversation with your audience. Use words and expressions you normally do. Say I, we, and you, when appropriate. Speak a little louder than usual. (Doing so injects more energy into your voice.) And use your customary gestures; just make them bigger.5. Approach your presentation from your audiences perspective not your perspective.Address their concerns. Speak to their interests, values, and aspirations. Help them solve problems that bother them, or achieve goals that are important to them. Avoid words jargon and acronyms they dont understand. Cite evidence they find credible.6. Dress appropriately.Dress a little more formally than your audience in order to establishe your credibility and authority. Dress appropriately for your profession. If youre a lawyer speaking to high school seniors, you dont have to dress down. Look the part. Wear your business attire. On the other hand, if youre a construction worker making a team presentation to the CEO and CFO of a hospital as part of a bid process, no one will expect you to outdress them. Whatever you wear, make sure its neat and clean.7. Avoid using humor or language that might offend them.Audiences are touchy these days. And once you offend them, youll rarely regain their trust or goodwill. Toastmasters International suggests avoiding language or topics best left in the bathroom, barroom, or bedroom. Generally, you cant go wrong if you use humor that lets people laugh at you and at your foibles. Also avoid stereotypes of all sorts.8. Tell stories to engage their imaginations.Most audiences highly technical audiences are an exception relate to a personal story.# # #Also see How to Connect with your Audience and What to Do When Things Go Wrong.For information about how Chris Witt can help you become a more powerful speaker, contact us. Here are 10 tips, from Dorothea Stuart of Toastmasters International, to help you gain rapport and engage your audience during your speech or presentation and beyond.1) Put your audience firstThe key to rapport is getting to know as much as possible about your audience before you start preparing your speech or presentation. With limited time for your talk there are always choices to be made so the more you know the better you can tailor your technical content and examples etc to meet your audiences needs and expectations.2) Find opportunities for humourKnowledge of your audience gives you the chance to find opportunities for humour, one of the oldest rapport building techniques. We warm to people who make us laugh. It is also a way of showing that you are one of them.3) Allow for flexibility in your contentWrite a speech that will take approximately 80% of the time youve been allocated. Then arrive early and talk to as many people as possible. That way you may pick up stories, examples that you can refer to in your presentation. You may also discover an important concern that you can emphasise. The ability to flex your speech in this way shows a genuine responsiveness to your audience which will be appreciated.4) First impressions countAs a speaker you are on show from the moment you start meeting your audience: walking into the conference hotel, the board room at work, stepping onto the podium. Dressing appropriately is a given. Most important is being in the mental and physical state which communicates a positive attitude and energy to your audience. If you look as if you are interested and eager to speak to them you are well on your way to establishing rapport.5) Have a strong openingIf you are at a formal event write the introduction you want the MC to give. You want people to hear information that builds your credibility/authority with this particular audience. This is an essential part of rapport. If audience members feel they are in good hands they will relax and give their attention. Next, find an opening that will grab the attention and engage your audience as quickly as possible.6) Manage the middleIf you are giving a long talk you need to maintain and peak the audiences interest at key points in your speech. A humorous twist can do this. You can also build up your key arguments to shocking, or unexpectedly positive conclusions.7) Use stories for emotional connectionRapport depends on emotional connection and stories are a highly effective way to achieve this. Make a point. Tell a story. Tell a story. Make a point. is the public speaking mantra. Evidence shows that even if we grasp the facts, were more likely to remember the story that illustrates it when we go back to our desks.8) Use your voice with varietyVarying the pace and volume at which you speak can add to the impact of you presentation. If you are telling a story about a fast-paced environment pick up your pace. If youre giving a piece of complex information slow down and let people absorb it. If your voice matches your content it will be more engaging.9) Give the audience timeIf you say something funny let everyone laugh and enjoy the moment. If youve said something with strong emotion give time for it to be absorbed. If you rush on to make your next point you signal that your needs are most important. By pausing you show you are there for them.10) Have a strong endingCraft a clear, concise summary of your key message to end on. You may have a call to action which should be specific so that people leave knowing exactly what they need to do. That way your ideas will stay with them.By following these ten tips youll build rapport with your audience and youll engage them and they will remember you, and your business, for all the right reasons. When it comes to delivering a knockout presentation, some presenters seem to effortlessly build audience rapport they seem to just have it. They have a certain energy about them a presence that commands the room and draws the audience in deeper with every word.You know it when you see and hear it. Its unmistakable. But what exactly do we mean by it? Is it charisma? Style? Timing? Body language?It all boils down to having a good Executive Presence, and a major part of developing your executive presence is understanding how to build a great rapport with your audience.The good news is that this is a skill that can be learned, so read on for tips on building rapport with any audience and delivering an unforgettable presentation every time.What do we mean by audience rapport?At its core, rapport is all about human connection, mutual understanding and trust.In the context of delivering a presentation, building rapport means that you understand and value the needs of your audience and respond to those needs accordingly. It is an almost unspoken connection between you and your audience one built on a mutual understanding of their needs.Strategies for building audience rapport during a presentationTo build rapport with your audience, you need to keep them at the centre of your content. Seek to understand their goals first, and then align them with yours.Why is it important for them to hear what you have to say? Knowing this is the key to delivering a presentation that will resonate with them on an emotional level.Here are ten of the most effective tips for helping you build rapport, and craft and deliver a knockout presentation:1. Know your audienceThe primary goal of any presentation is to engage the audience, and this is virtually impossible if you dont know anything about them.Take the time to learn everything you can about your audience so that you can speak to their desires and empathise with their pain points. This way you will be able to not only meet their expectations but exceed them because you can genuinely identify with their issues.2. Talk to audience members before your presentation beginsIf you can, mingle and engage with your audience before the presentation.This will give you a headstart on creating a connection and building rapport, plus it gives you a valuable opportunity to gauge the mood in the room.It also has the added benefit of creating a handful of interpersonal associations before you even begin, because the people youve already engaged with are no longer just nameless strangers.3. Include your audience in the presentationAnother great way to build rapport is to encourage audience participation by asking questions and using analogies that resonate with them.Make them feel included and part of the presentation by saying you as many times as you say I. Also, be sure to allow a few minutes for questions and feedback at the end so your audience members can see that the rapport youve generated with them is genuine and isnt defined by the confines of your presentation time alone.4. Dress for the appropriate contextChoose your outfit wisely as this will influence how you are perceived by your audience.Is it a formal presentation or more casual? Is your audience in the same industry as you, or an entirely different one?If in doubt, err on the side of caution and go for something smart it is always better to be overdressed than underdressed!5. Dont stare at PowerPointUsing slides can be a great way to reinforce your message and highlight key themes, but try to avoid reading directly from them throughout your presentation.To avoid losing the interest of your audience, make eye contact with them, keep your tone and body language natural, and only glance at your slides occasionally.6. Avoid using acronyms and jargonIt can be tempting to use acronyms to speed things up but bear in mind that not everyone in the audience will be familiar with them.The same goes for industry jargon if they dont fully understand what youre referring to, youll struggle to engage them and your attempts to build rapport will be stifled.7. Smile!Dont be afraid to smile and let your personality shine through, as this will make you appear more likeable and trustworthy to your audience.It can be difficult to remember to smile during a presentation, mostly because people experience incredible nervousness when they are public speaking. But smiling is an extremely effective manner of demonstrating positive body language and can evaporate any perceived chasms between you and your audience.8. Avoid offensive language and humourThis one may seem obvious, but its crucial to keep in mind that everyone is different and comes from different cultural backgrounds what one person finds hilarious, another might find inappropriate or downright offensive.Humour can be a great way to connect with your audience and make them feel at ease but always use your best judgement because any humour in general is very subjective.If theres even the slightest chance that what you say could be taken up the wrong way, then just leave it out!9. Build audience rapport by simply being youThe quickest way to build rapport with your audience is simply to be yourself, so dont shy away from showing your audience your personality and your unique outlook.No one wants to attend a presentation thats being delivered by a robot they want to feel a sense of connection and recognise genuine empathy from you.If you find this tough because of your nerves, then tell your audience. Let them know how youre feeling and you might be surprised by how much better you feel. Empathy is a powerful force and can endear your audience to you, so dont be afraid to let your guard down a little.10. Finish early if possibleNo matter how much your audience enjoys the presentation, they will appreciate you finishing on time or even a bit early if possible so they can get on with their day!By no means should you rush to finish your presentation, but concluding a little earlier than expected is always appreciated by audiences and also allows for a little more informal chat post-presentation.Its always good to leave them wanting more!Expand your skills and deliver unforgettable presentationsAt NxtGEN Executive Presence, we are here to empower your capabilities in the corporate environment.Our Executive Presentation Skills training can provide you with all the tools and training you need to become a master at connecting with any audience.Once youre armed with the knowledge and practical experience you need, you will be able to build rapport, communicate through compelling corporate narratives, turn raw data into actionable insights, and influence those around you.Get in touch with us today to develop your leadership skills, and dont forget to check out our blog and resources for more industry-leading trends and insights.HOMESpeech deliveryBuilding audience rapport How to engage effectively with your audienceBy:Susan Dugdale| Last modified: 05-23-2021 "Building rapport"is the name given to the process of creating an understanding and harmonious bond between yourself and someone else.When rapport is present you feel at ease, happy and comfortable in the other person's company. Your conversation flows effortlessly without any awkward pausing. You've "clicked"! You feel seen for who you are: understood, respected and valued. Loved.Rapport and public speakingrapport [rap-pore]noun a sympathetic relationship or understanding [French]Related or similar words - bond, relationship, link, tie, sympathy, harmony, affinity, empathy For the public speaker that someone else you're seeking to build rapport with is not a single person. It's your audience, and good rapport with them, ensures your message will be actively listened to.What happens withoutaudience rapportHave you ever stood in front of an audience and known you weren't being listened to? Have you watched yawns being stifled, caught people peeking at their phones or muttering quietly to their neighbors? I have and the more I've tried to rescue the situation, often the worse it got.So what was going on? I get it right most of the time and count myself as a good "people" person. I like people and mostly they like me. However when they'd rather I stopped talking immediately, I am obviously missing something critical!With reflection and analysis I discovered that something was activelybuilding rapport.What happens withaudience rapportRapport is what happens when you have everything in harmony. Your speech is right. The audience receives it well. They enjoy listening to it as much as you enjoy delivering it. However that happy harmonious state doesn't occur without conscious effort.The elements of audience rapportThe very first thing I learned was that building rapport meant focusing on the audience. Not me, but my audience. I had "to get over myself, to get out of my own way", to stop being the principal focus of my attention.To achieve the synergy I pictured in my imagination I needed to tailor my presentation to fit who was listening to it.Understanding your audienceI needed to know:who my audience was. I needed to know their age range, the gender mix, their ethnicity, shared cultural values, religious or group affiliations, primary language, educational level, and how much they knew about my topic already ...why they were there to listen to me.Were they there because attendance was compulsory, voluntary (out of interest), to have a problem solved, or to show support ...?what their concerns were. I needed to find out if the audience carried any specific issues around my topic? Were they neutral, in agreement or against it?what their expectations were. Did they expect a formal presentation, an opportunity to ask questions and get answers, a show and tell ...?what their vocabulary was.Were they familiar with the specialized vocabulary (jargon) around my topic? If I used it would I alienate them?what their general beliefs might be. Were they at variance with my topic? Or were they in-line or congruent? what they had in common with me.What do we share? Are our background experiences or living situations similar?Then using all that information I could shape my material to genuinely meet them.First impressions countThe other ingredient crucial to the mix was truly understanding that first impressions count.A speaker has approximately 5-10 seconds from the time they stand up to talk to lay the foundation for empathy or good will.In summary ...Nine rapport builders are:1. dressing and grooming appropriately for the occasion. If it's formal, you're there in smart business attire. If it's informal, the clothes you're wearing reflect that. (If in doubt ask. Don't be that person who stands out for the wrong reasons.) 2. being organized, ready with suitable content. Your material is relevant, fresh, and crafted to meet the audience's needs, and the time allocation you've been given.3. demonstrating in your opening statements that you know who you're talking to because you've done your homework.You've got an appropriate opening hook: a self-deprecating anecdote or personal story, a startling statistic, or an intriguing rhetorical question, that will immediately let your audience feel good about listening to you.4. using inclusive language: "we" rather than "I". "I" statements emphasize separateness and distance between people. If you use too much of "I this", "I that" and "I something else" in a speech you're likely end up alienating yourself from your audience because you will have shown yourself to be, literally, too full of yourself.5. identifying and emphasizing your common ground respectfully and sincerely. When you highlight your areas of mutual experience you create trust and when there's trust, an audience is more likely listen to what you have to say. The shared experiences become stepping stones into the heart of your presentation.6. avoiding jargon, including popular business jargon whose only purpose is to make the speaker and the subject they're talking about seem more complicated and elevated than it is.Here's a Grammarly article that covers it well: 14 business jargon phrases people love to hate.No more blue sky thinking, please. No more circling back, learnings, or moving of goal posts!The very best thing you can do with phrases like these is to mix and match them for a giggle. To that end, the people from Plain English Campaign have created aGobbledygook generator.It gave me these hilariously gorgeous gobbets of ridiculous nonsense: "Our upgraded model now offers holistic transitional alignment." and "I can make a window to discuss your systemized digital options." 9. understanding the fullimpact of your vocal delivery. How do you speak? Is your voice soft? Loud? Are your words well articulated so that everybody can understand you easily? How fast do you speak? Do you vary the speed? Do you use pauses well? What about fillers? Do you "um" or "ah"?How you use your voice directly influences how people respond to what you're saying. And there is often a very large gap between how we think we use our voices, and how we actually do.The gift exchange between audience and speakerHaving an audience is a privilege. Their gift to you is their presence. The gift we give in return is recognition. Carefully building rapport carries a potent message: "I see you. I understand and respect you."It creates trust and where there's trust there is willingness to follow, to listen.In essence building rapport is about identifying similarity. When we show an audience that we are like them, we find a mutual starting place for the shared journey of the speech.P.S.I discovered a couple of gems as part of learning about building audience rapport. The first was the more I focused on the audience and their needs, the less self conscious and fearful I became as a speaker.The second falls into the category a friend calls: "startling observations on the obvious".It is much easier to give speeches or presentations to people we intuitively understand. These are people like ourselves and the people we make our friends.To build rapport with people who don't share the same interests, background or beliefs we have to step out of our shoes, out of our comfort zone, and into theirs! It's harder but I think the rewards in understanding are worth the effort.Back to top of building rapport Rapport is the foundation of influence and impact. An American psychiatrist and psychologist, Milton Erickson, once said, With rapport, everything is possible. Without it, nothing is possible.So what is this magical ingredient in effective communications? It is about being on the same wavelength as someone else so that we feel connected. It often involves having shared values, beliefs or similar life experiences. I know, for example, that I usually instantly connect with someone who is or has been a journalist due to my time at the BBC.But how do you build rapport with an audience made up of many different individuals? This is vital when you are speaking in public presenting, giving a keynote speech or sitting on a panel at a conference.Many of the things that you do naturally one-on-one are applicable, such as finding common ground, asking questions and actively listening to what they are saying.But when you want to build rapport with an audience, you need to use these skills more consciously.Let me explain by sharing my list of how to do it, based on my experience as a moderator and public speaking coach.Finding common ground When you prepare your speech or remarks you need to think about your audience first and foremost. What are their needs, expectations and challenges? Far too often presenters think that communication is a one-way process but to have impact you need to ensure that your message has got across to the audience so that they are not only engaged but also feel, say or think differently as a result of your presentation.Reading the room I am often asked by people I coach/train how do I know that my message has landed. Well, the first thing is to read the room. Are people looking at you or reading their emails or looking out of the window? If they are looking at you, how are they looking quizzically or in agreement? Do they have their hand on their chin, as this is often a sign that they are listening intently? What is their body language telling you? Are they slumped in their chair? Are they leaning back with a bored expression? If so it is up to you to reconnect again by changing your voice, body language or content.Articulating what you see This is a coaching technique that is very effective when speaking in public. If you see that your audience is either with you or against you, tell them what you are seeing. Check back with them if you are right that they are puzzled, sceptical or engaged. If you do this, it shows that you are in the moment and present and will show your audience that you care about them and their reaction.Actively listen Another coaching technique. We often listen at a superficial level just waiting for our turn to speak. But you need to fully focus and show you are listening. You can do this with your body language nodding your head, putting your hand on your chin, briefly moving towards the questioner during the Q and A session if standing or leaning forward if sitting. You can also do this by repeating back the same words or even using the same metaphors and analogies as the person who is talking. For example, You say that you feel frustrated, that you are drowning with work, ..Pathos, pathos, pathos As Socrates said if you want to really influence someone you have to have logos (logic), ethos (credibility) and pathos (stir emotion in the audience). You can read more about this in a previous blog.Many of the people I coach and train shy away from stirring emotion in a professional context, but if you can add a dash of storytelling in your speech or remarks, you will immediately build a connection with the audience as since childhood we have been hot-wired to love stories.All of this takes courage.As you can see from this diagram about building rapport, if you move beyond the clich and facts and start to share beliefs and opinions, you will build rapport. However disclosing more and increasing trust, does come with risks.But if you want to have impact and influence, and it is done well, then I believe it is a risk worth taking. More than a fourth of the global population speaks English, making it the most common language in the world, including both native and foreign speakers. However, English has many words that it derives from other languages, such as French, Greek, and Latin. One such word is rapport. The correct spelling of the word is rapport, which means an understanding, harmonious relationship, and it is a loanword from French. There is no such word as repore except as an acronym for Report Output Retrieval System which is a term used chiefly in governmental or military jargon and legal abbreviations. This article will take a deeper look at the word rapport, its derivation and meaning, and how we use it in the English language. Well also delve into using foreign loanwords in English and other words related to rapport. What Does Rapport Mean? According to the Merriam-Websters Dictionary, the definition of rapport is a friendly, harmonious relationship (source). Thus, to have rapport means to have relationships with people that are close, friendly, and in sync. These are relationships in which the people in them have a deep understanding of each others feelings and ideas, and they communicate with ease. In other words, rapport occurs between two or more people who share many of the same thoughts and feelings. In short, people who have a rapport with one another are on the same wavelength. Rapport is the sense of connection you feel when you meet someone you like and trust and whose values you share. It is essential because it allows people to connect and build relationships with others, and rapport forms the basis of close and meaningful relationships with others. Behavioral psychologists, diplomats, legal experts, and government officials have a particular interest in understanding how rapport functions. Behaviorists break down rapport into three behavioral components: coordination, mutual positivity, and mutual attention (source). Rapport promotes deeper connections with others on a personal level, facilitates the development of emotional intelligence and interpersonal skills, and helps establish comfortable living and working environments. Such connections play a vital role in negotiations, and good or bad rapport between negotiators can determine whether discussions are successful or not. Rapport, in this case, is based on the willingness of the people involved in the talks to cooperate, share crucial information, and make fewer threats and ultimatums. Rapport is a two-way connection between people, requiring two people with the same feelings about each other. Anyone can build a rapport with others by adhering to a few simple rules: Be well-presented and have a neat appearanceMaintain a good postureBe culturally appropriateBe well-manneredSmile when you greet new peopleListen attentively and remember names and factsFind common ground Stemming from the old French verb rapporter, the literal translation of rapport is to carry something back. We can decipher this as people relating to each other in a way that they send back what they get i.e., they have similar beliefs, feelings, thoughts, and values. The English word rapport emerged during the 1660s, stemming from the French word rapporter, meaning bearing, yield, produce, harmony, agreement, and intercourse. It also means to bring or carry something back / to refer to (source). We can trace the French word back to the Latin verb, portare, which means to bring / to carry. The related word report dates back to the 14th century and was an Old French noun meaning pronouncement or judgment. It also stems from the word reporter, meaning to tell or to relate. When talking about carrying or bringing something back, as in the French word rapporter, it gives a sense of how people relate to each other in terms of something a person sends out and gets in return, such as behaviors, beliefs, knowledge, or values. Here are some examples and explanations using rapport in a sentence. In this case, rapport is a noun, so it will function as a noun in a sentence. Note how there is an adjective before rapport that describes its quality in each of the following examples. The teacher has a good rapport with the children in her class.She has an excellent rapport with her music students.Comedians need to create a good rapport with the audience to be successful. In all of the above examples, the meaning of the word rapport is similar the people in each case have a good relationship with each other. As a result, there is a feeling of harmony between them, the connections are friendly, and the people are in sync with each other. Whats Another Word for Rapport? We can use several synonyms in English in place of rapport (source). There are over 600 synonyms or words and phrases with similar meaning to rapport, many of which convey the same general sense of harmony, agreement, and understanding between individuals or groups of people. These include, among others: AccordEmpathyConcordUnderstandingAgreementCompatibilityTogethernessMutual understandingFellowshipKinshipCamaraderie Some examples of synonyms for rapport in sentences: SynonymExample of Use in a SentencecommunionAfter a year in her job, she finally had a sense of communion with her colleagues.fellowshipThe new teacher was eager to form a trustful fellowship with the other teachers.rapprochementA new trade agreement highlighted a new era of rapprochement between France and the United Kingdom.accordThe United States of America and North Korea reached a peace accord after months of talks.kinshipAfter rescuing Jane from the terrorists, John began to feel a deep kinship with her. Several words in English are related to rapport. Here are the words, their meanings, and how they are used in sentences. Related WordMeaningExampleAffinityA habitual attraction to some activity or thing.Jenna always had an affinity for nurturing animals.AccordTo agree on every point.After the divorce, she left of her own accord as promised.AgreementA harmony of opinion, action, or character.There was widespread agreement on the issue of climate change. AmityFriendly relations between nations.There was amity between all the countries at the G7 Summit.ConcordA state of agreement, harmonyHis speech broke down the last vestiges of racial concord.CompanionshipThe fellowship that exists among companions or friends.Their marriage was one of companionship rather than love.EmpathyThe act of understanding, being aware and sensitive to the feelings of another.Sociopaths are incapable of empathy. FriendlinessThe state of being friendly.Friendliness and respect go a long way when you are meeting new people.FriendshipThe state of being friendsTheir friendship has lasted for 40 years.HarmonyInternal calmBen lives in harmony with nature.SolidarityA unity that is based on a community of similar interests, objectives, and standards.There must be solidarity among the people for the vote to be passed.SymbiosisA cooperative relationship between two people or groups.There was a symbiosis between the locals and the foreigners.SympathyEmotional or intellectual accord; the act or capacity of entering into or sharing the feelings or interests of anotherShe expressed her deepest sympathy to the grieving family.UnderstandingComprehension; a friendly or harmonious relationship; an agreement of opinion or feeling.They had a mutual understanding.UnityA condition of harmonyThere was a sense of national unity among the crowds. What Is the Opposite of Rapport? Image by Roland Samuel via Unsplash Rapport means to have a friendly and harmonious relationship with a person or group of people, so the antonym or opposite of rapport will mean a discordant or incompatible relationship. There are several antonyms words opposite in meaning to another for rapport. AntonymExample of Use in a SentenceDiscordMy boss does not tolerate discord among workers in the office.IncompatibilityThe main obstacle in their marriage was their incompatibility.DisagreementWe are in strong disagreement about the political situation in the USA.ColdnessThe new boy in class only received coldness from his fellow pupils.UnfriendlinessThe unfriendliness of her neighbors made her realize she had moved into the wrong apartment block. What Is a Bad Rapport? To have a bad or poor rapport with someone or a group of people is similar to the antonyms above it means the relationship between the two people or one person and the group is not harmonious or easy-going, and there is poor communication between the parties involved. Lets cover a few examples that illustrate the difference between good and bad rapport: We worked together for years and had a good rapportMeaning: they had an easy-going and harmonious relationship. Even though we had worked together for years, we had a poor rapportMeaning: after working together for so long, the relationship between them was poor. The office workers at the firm had a good/bad rapport with their boss.A poor rapport between the two countries led to war. Why Confusion Exists Over Repore and Rapport Its all about pronunciation. The word rapport is a French loanword, so we pronounce it with a French accent even when we use it in the English language. The pronunciation of rapport is ra-pr and the t is silent, which is a distinct characteristic of many words in the French language. Therefore, when we pronounce it in English, the word rapport sounds like repore, which can lead to the mistaken spelling of the word. The Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA) lists just one reference to repore compared with 2017 uses of rapport (source). These frequency lists capture the top 60,000 words in the corpus. There are many other French words that we use in English that also have a silent t, including: Ballet: The girl was a beautiful ballet dancer.Gourmet: Michelin chefs tend to cook gourmet food.Ricochet: The bullet ricocheted off the wall and hit the door.Chalet: We stayed in a cozy chalet in the mountains. Image by Rafael Garcin via Unsplash Lexicographers refer to words that the speakers of one language adopt from a different language as loanwords. Linguists also refer to the process as borrowing words from a source language, although there is no literal exchange of words one community that speaks a certain language simply takes words from another language (source). The English language has many loanwords that it has borrowed from other languages throughout history. Around 30% of English words come from French, some of which have evolved from French origins and some of which are French phrases borrowed directly from the French language known as cognates. Today, there are 7,000 French words in the English language that English speakers use regularly. For example, the English language took on many Norman French words after the Norman Conquest in the 11th century AD, such as accuse, archer, bailiff, chivalry, and quarter, among others. In addition, the Normans introduced the qu spelling for the kw sound. A dramatic increase in Greek scholarship during the Early Modern English Period led to the adoption of Greek anonymous, catastrophe, comedy, ecstasy, pneumonia, and tonic. This was also a period where scholars adopted many Latin terms as loanwords. To read more on a similar topic, check out Per Se vs. Per Say, which deals with a borrowed phrase of Latin origin. This article was written for strategiesforparents.com. After the restoration of the Monarchy in England in 1660, there was a distinct trend in adopting French words and spelling that lasted well into the 1700s. Rapport is one such example. Final Thoughts As you can see, the English language derives or sometimes simply takes many words from other languages like French, Italian, or Greek. This leads to some confusion in English regarding pronunciation and spelling, as we saw with the word rapport. English language learners need to realize and recognize such words and how their pronunciation and spelling can change according to the derivation of the word. We want to hear from you. We are continuously developing the site and adding new content. If you cannot find what you are looking for, please let us know. You can get in touch with us via: or Subscribe to our newsletter

Audience rapport meaning. Rapport conversation. Rapport communication. Rapport with the audience.