



For this month's article, I thought I would touch on something that frequently comes up whenever I have a student wanting to make a change in their game, but is faced with that little demon inside, called DOUBT. Whether it be subtle or major, it is always important to remember that as human beings, we are all creatures of habit. As life has a way of molding us all, sometimes no matter how hard we want to make a change, we tend to have a knack for getting in our own way and almost always giving up to some extent. Now, it is important to remember that some people are simply blessed with steady positivity and an absolute belief in themselves that change is just a fun new challenge they can't wait to overcome. While on the other hand there are some of us that face the thought of change with a great deal of hesitation, nervousness, uncertainty and downright fear!

So the question is, how do we overcome the fear of something different, the challenge of a new point of view or the obscurity of a different approach? The answer to me lies within just a couple of choice words... Communication, Understanding and Commitment.

As an Instructor, I have been molded by own experiences as a player. I have been very fortunate to have learned from some of the greatest teachers in the history of the game and when I sit down and think about it, I realize that the greats all have one thing in common. Communication! I have never met a great instructor/teacher/coach that didn't have the ability to communicate clearly and effectively. I also have never met a great instructor/teacher/coach that wasn't open to change as well. I have always prided myself on making sure that I understand what my students are feeling both physically and emotionally and from there, we can get on the same page and come up with a plan. I believe it is vitally important to step into your world and try to relate the best I can to develop a sense of calm and readiness for what is next!

That being said, proper communication on both ends is what allows the student and teacher to properly understand each other and when the student can properly understand the teacher; the fear of change isn't so scary. Subsequently, this is when great things can happen! I think it is always important for a student to ask his/her instructor Why? Why-not? How? Show me? If you as the student cannot understand the whys and why not's, then how can you ever buy into what you are doing?

This leads me to the last word, commitment. I have never seen change come easy to someone that isn't willing to work or wasn't open and willing to make a change in the first place. There is no secret sauce when it comes to owning your own motion. You have to be fully committed to what you are doing and then put in the proper amount of work according to your own personal goals. Just like the great Ben Hogan said "The answer is in the Dirt!"

So the next time you think about making a change, really think hard about how that can effectively happen for you and relay that to your instructor. After all, it is my job to come up with the plan, create full understanding and always be there to support, but as we all know that is half the battle!

I always tell my students, when it's time to practice we practice, but when it's time to play golf, we play golf. Doesn't matter how pretty or how ugly you have to do it on the course, just so long as you get that ball in the hole with what you've got that day. Golf is a game of misses not a game of perfection! Remember that Training Harder is Training Smarter!

Good luck and I'll see you out there,  
Tyler Hall, Director of Instruction

*As a side note, I know this was more about psychology support rather than technical support but I think we can all agree this game is played mostly between the ears and that is a huge part of instruction! With that being said, let me leave you with a parting Tip. Watching the U.S. OPEN this week, I noticed that coming down the stretch; many of the players, including Jordan Spieth and runner up Louis Oosthuizen, were fixating their eyes on the cup with all of their putts inside roughly ten feet. This is a great technique used by some of the best players in the game, especially when the pressure is on. Instead of staring at the ball and getting lost in your stroke, stare at the hole and just stroke the putt. Try it and you might be amazed the result!*