Mick Grimley:

Welcome to week two of Swinburne's Autism MOOC. My name is Mick Grimley.

Emma Donaldson:

And I'm Emma Donaldson.

Mick Grimley:

This week's topic that we're going to explore is a topic on communication. So Emma, can you tell us a little bit about this topic and a little bit about the sort of things that we're going to talk about and explore this week?

Emma Donaldson:

Sure. So when we are looking at the topic of communication, I'm really excited about this week because it's so diverse. It's one of the core components of autism that's talked about from a deficit model but it really needs to be looked at from a model of social interaction and there are many ways in which we communicate. So we will be looking at certain scenarios of where social skills have come into play, of where adaptive technologies have come into use and the different terminology around communication.

Mick Grimley:

And also we'll cover a new skill this week. Last week we looked at person first. This week the skill that we're going to cover is 'define'. Can you tell us a little bit more about this skill?

Emma Donaldson:
Sure. So we’re going to add on to that person first perspective. So in these scenarios and the activities that we are doing today... this week, rather, we’re going to talk about how we've moved from thinking in the perspective of the person and then we’re going to actually explore some opportunities to define what problems we're actually going to solve, OK? So often we can have a whole range of options and so now we're starting to define what the problem is. So if we go back to my example that I used last week about the lunch box, it might be that I start to explore, "Well, what is happening for Mick at school? Is it that he is having difficulties getting to his bag? Is it that he is not actually liking the food that I'm putting in his lunch box?" So this is how we start to define the problem instead of it just being Mick's not eating his lunch.

**Mick Grimley:**

Thanks, Emma. That sounds interesting for this week. And we're looking forward to reading some of the posts and seeing what the activity is within the MOOC this week.

So that wraps up our introduction for week two. See you next week.