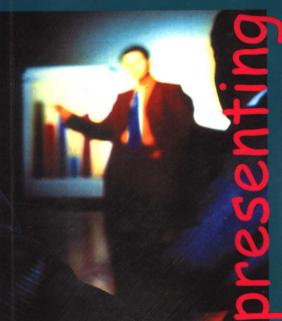
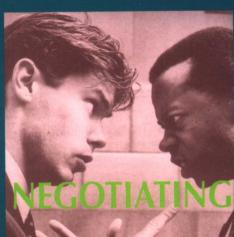
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# 剑桥美式商务英语(中级)

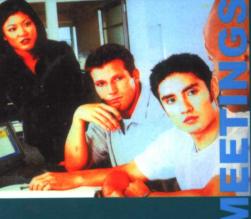
# **Communicating in Business**

A short course for Business English Students









学生用书

Student's Book

Simon Sweeney

Cambridge Professional English



# Communicating in Business

A short course for Business English Students: Cultural diversity and socializing, Using the telephone, Presentations, Meetings and Negotiations

# 剑桥美式商务英语(中级)

学生用书





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# Introduction

Communicating in Business is based on the same core content as English for Business Communication. The main difference is that Communicating in Business uses American English as its model whereas English for Business Communication uses British English.

Communicating in Business is a short course with two key objectives:

- to develop your technique in five key areas of communication: socializing, using the telephone, presenting information, participating in meetings and negotiations
- to develop your knowledge of the language used in these key areas.

The course is concerned with improving your listening and speaking skills. There is a lot of opportunity to practice understanding from the recorded material. It is important that you try to understand the key message of the extracts, not every word you hear. Similarly, there are several reading texts where again you should try to understand the key messages, not necessarily every word on the page.

There are very many opportunities for discussion and plenty of role plays. The discussion is partly designed to get you to think about what makes communication effective. The practice material and the role plays lead to a Transfer exercise. This is a chance to connect what you have studied with your own daily experience, either as a student or as a professional working in business. The skills learned from this course are useful for those preparing to start work and for those already in work.

As you use the course, practice as much as you can and prepare for meetings, presentations or telephone calls by using the Checklists at the end of each unit. Always refer to these when preparing a communication task. Try to develop the habit of good preparation. Try also to develop the habit of self-assessment to help you to see where improvements can be made. Your teacher will help you with this.

Enjoy the course!

Simon Sweeney

# For Judith, Ruth and Neil with love from Dad.

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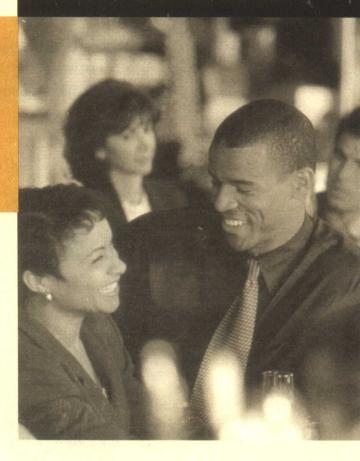
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# CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND SOCIALIZING

# MODULE 1



# Building a relationship

## AIMS

- Cross-cultural understanding (1)
- Welcoming visitors
- Small talk: Keeping the conversation going

# 1 Cross-cultural understanding (1)



- 1 Look at the photo. In groups, discuss the situation. Decide what you think the people are talking about. Suggest various topics. Say what you think they are definitely *not* talking about. Then spend a few minutes acting out the conversation.
- 2 Read the text below. Identify the basic message implied by the text.

#### Eye contact

In many Western societies, including the United States, a person who does not maintain "good eye contact" is regarded as being slightly suspicious, or a "shifty" character. Americans unconsciously associate people who avoid eye contact as unfriendly, insecure, untrustworthy, inattentive and impersonal. However, in contrast, Japanese children are taught in school to direct their gaze at the region of their teacher's Adam's apple or tie knot, and, as adults, Japanese lower their eyes when speaking to a superior, a gesture of respect.

Latin American cultures, as well as some African cultures, such as Nigeria, have longer looking time, but prolonged eye contact from an individual of lower status is considered disrespectful. In the US, it is considered rude to stare – regardless of who is looking at whom. In contrast, the polite Englishman is taught to pay strict attention to a speaker, to listen carefully, and to blink his eyes to let the speaker know he or she has been understood as well as heard. Americans signal interest and comprehension by bobbing their heads or grunting.

A widening of the eyes can also be interpreted differently, depending on circumstances and culture. Take, for instance, the case of an American and a Chinese discussing the terms of a proposed contract. Regardless of the language in which the proposed contract is carried out, the US negotiator may interpret a Chinese person's widened eyes as an expression of astonishment instead of as a danger signal (its true meaning) of politely expressed anger.

Adapted from Managing Cultural Differences, Fourth Edition, by Phillip R. Harris and Robert T. Moran.

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- 3 If necessary, read the text again. Then comment on the following:
  - a) observations about many people from the United States
  - b) observations about the English
  - c) an observation about Japanese children
  - d) the meaning of lowering one's eyes in Japan
  - e) why looking at someone for a long time may be considered disrespectful
  - f) the meaning of widened eyes in Chinese culture.
- 4 Before receiving a visitor from a foreign country or before travelling abroad you need to think about the cultural issues that may affect the relationship.
  - a) Suggest some basic research that you should do before receiving your visitor, or before traveling. What issues should you think about? Note: After suggesting your own ideas, compare your list with the Skills Checklist at the end of this unit.



b) Listen to the recording. An American, Peter Wasserman, who is the CEO of an international company, talks about what he thinks is important in preparing for business contacts with people from other cultures. He mentions several key areas to find out about. Identify six of them. Did you think of any of the same issues?

## **Discussion**

In what way is the advice in this section useful when doing business? Look again at the Skills Checklist on page 8.

# 2 Welcoming visitors



What happens when a visitor arrives with an appointment to visit a company? What are the typical stages of the first meeting? What conversations take place?



- (a) 1 Listen to the recording in which Len Ewing arrives for a meeting with Jack Caruso and Luisa Caldos of Evco, an advertising agency in Seattle, Washington.
  - a) Is the meeting between Len Ewing and Evco formal or informal? Give reasons for your answer.
  - b) Do they know each other quite well?
  - c) Len has a problem. What is it?



(a) 2 Listen again. Think again about how Luisa and Jack talk to Len.

> She interrupts him at the start. Is this acceptable? They use first names. Is this right, given the situation? Jack begins to talk about the program for the day. Is this appropriate at this stage?



3 Listen to the recording of Peter Marwood's arrival at SDA Ltd., in Sydney, Australia. He has to wait a few minutes and asks Stephanie Field for some assistance. Identify two things he needs and three things he does not need.



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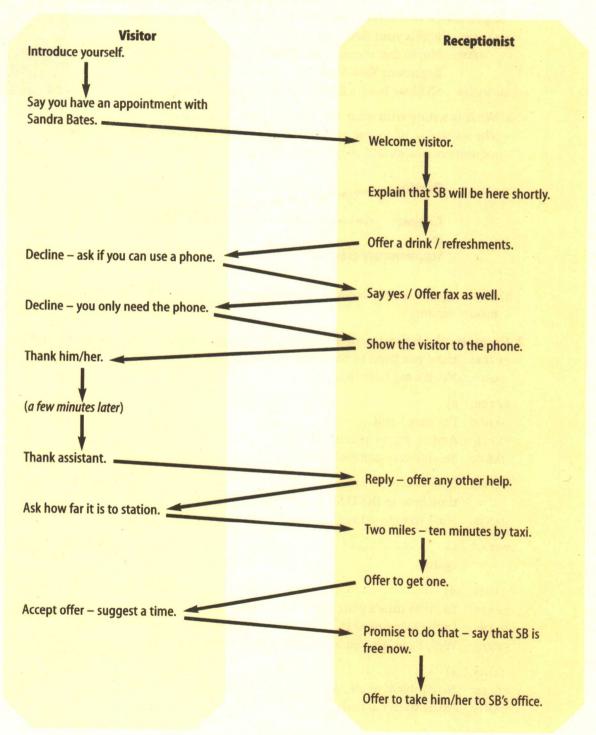
			- 1	
N	0	0	1	0
LN	C	C	u	3

#### Does not need

- d)

#### Practice 1

Make a dialogue based on the following flow chart. If you need help, look at the Language Checklist on page 8.



Now listen to the recording of a model answer.

# 3 Small talk: keeping the conversation going



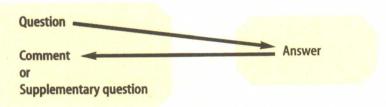
2 1 Randy Hemp from the U.S. is visiting a customer in Taiwan, China. He is talking to the Production Manager of a manufacturing plant in Taipei. Listen to the recording of an extract of their conversation.

MANAGER: Is this your first visit here?

HEMP: No, in fact the first time I came was for a trade fair. We began our East Asian operations here at the 1999 Exhibition.

MANAGER: Shall we have a look around the plant before lunch?

a) What is wrong with what the production manager says? The answer is, of course, that it breaks a "rule" of conversation. Generally, if you ask a question you should comment on the answer or ask a supplementary question.



b) Now suggest a better version of the same conversation. There is a recording of a model version.

2	-	ete the following dialogue by writing appropriate sentences in the blanks.	
		Have you been to San Francisco before?	
	JANIS:	No, it's my first visit.	
	PETER:	a)	
	JANIS:	I'm sure I will.	
	PETER:	And er, is the hotel all right?	
	JANIS:	Yes, it's very comfortable.	
	PETER:	b) So, do you have much	
		time here in the U.S.? Are you staying long?	
	JANIS:	No, I have to go back tomorrow afternoon.	
	PETER:	c) You'll have to come back	<
		again!	
	IANIS:	d)	
		So what time's your flight tomorrow?	
		In the evening, 6:35.	
		Well, I can get you a taxi if you like, to get you there in good time.	
		e)	
		No problem at all. Was it a good flight today?	
		No, it wasn't actually.	
	PETER:	f)?	
	JANIS:	It was raining - quite hard. There was a lot of turbulence.	

PETER: h)

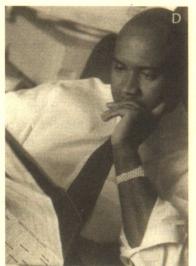


- 3 Listen to the recording of four conversation extracts.
  - a) Match each of them to one of the four photos below.









- b) Listen to each one again. In each case, suggest how you think the conversation might develop.
- c) Do you think any of the topics included would be unacceptable in a particular culture that you know about?

#### Practice 2

Look at the four pictures above and use each of them for two or three minutes of continual conversation with a partner.

#### Note:

- there should be no breaks of more than three seconds in your conversation
- listen carefully to what your partner says and pick up on specific points
- keep the conversation flowing.

## Role play 1

Working in pairs. Student A should look at File card 1A and Student B should look at File card 1B.

## Role play 2

Keep the same A and B. Student A should look at File card 2A. Student B should look at File card 2B.

## TRANSFER

Look at the Skills Checklist and prepare ideas on these topics in relation to a country you know well either through work or pleasure.

Discuss the country you choose with a colleague.

# Language Checklist Cultural diversity and socializing (1)

Welcoming visitors
Welcome to ...
My name's ...

Arriving

Hello. My name's ... from ...
I've got an appointment to see ...
Sorry – I'm a little late / early.
My plane was delayed ...

Introducing someone

This is ... He/she's my Personal Assistant.

Can I introduce you to ... He/she's our (Project Manager).

I'd like to introduce you to ...

Meeting someone and small talk
Pleased to meet you.
It's a pleasure.
How was your trip? Did you have a good flight / trip?
How are things in (London)?
How long are you staying in (New York)?
I hope you like it.
Is your hotel comfortable?
Is this your first visit to (the Big Apple)?

Offering assistance

Can I get you anything?
Do you need anything?
Would you like a drink?
If you need to use a phone or fax, please let me

Can we do anything for you?

Do you need a hotel / a taxi /
any travel information / etc.?

Asking for assistance
There is one thing I need ...
Could you get me ...
Could you get me a car / taxi / hotel room/ ...?
Could you help me arrange a flight to ...?
Can you recommend a good restaurant?
I'd like to book a room for tomorrow night. Can you recommend a hotel?

# Skills Checklist Socializing (1)

Before meeting business partners and fellow professionals from other countries, you could find out about their country:

- · the actual political situation
- cultural and regional differences
- religion(s)
- the role of women in business and in society as a whole
- transportation and telecommunications systems
- the economy
- the main companies
- the main exports and imports
- the market for the business sector which interests you
- competitors.

You might also want to find out:

- which topics are safe for small talk
- · which topics are best avoided.

If you are going to visit another country, find out about:

- the conventions regarding socializing
- attitudes towards foreigners
- attitudes towards gifts
- the extent to which public, business and private lives are mixed or are kept separate
- conventions regarding food and drink.

You might also like to find out about:

- the weather at the relevant time of the year
- public holidays
- the conventions regarding working hours
- leisure interests
- tourism
- dress
- body language
- · language.

# 2 Culture and entertainment

### AIMS

- Cross-cultural understanding (2)
- Inviting, and accepting or declining

#### **Eating out**

# 1 Cross-cultural understanding (2)

1 The following text is about cultural diversity. Read it through once and decide which of the three statements (A, B or C) given below the extract offers the most accurate summary.

## The impact of culture on business

5 Take a look at the new breed of international managers, educated according to the most modern management philosophies. They all know that in the SBU, TQM should reign, with products delivered JIT, where CFTs distribute products while subject to MBO.

10 (SBU = strategic business unit, TQM = total quality management, JIT = just-in-time, CFT = customer first team, MBO = management by objectives.)

But just how universal are these management solutions? Are these "truths" about what effective 15 management really is - truths that can be applied anywhere, under any circumstances?

Even with experienced international companies, many well-intended universal applications of management theory have turned out badly. For 20 example, pay-for-performance has in many instances been a failure on the African continent because there are particular, though unspoken, rules about the sequence and timing of reward and promotions. Similarly, management-by-objectives schemes have

25 generally failed within subsidiaries of multinationals in southern Europe, because managers have not wanted to conform to the abstract nature of preconceived policy guidelines.

Even the notion of human resource management is difficult to translate to other cultures, coming as it does from a typically Anglo-Saxon doctrine. It borrows from economics the idea that human beings are resources like physical and monetary resources. It tends to assume almost unlimited capacities for individual development. In countries without these beliefs, this concept is hard to grasp and unpopular once it is understood.

International managers have it tough. They must operate on a number of different premises at any one time. These premises arise from their culture of origin, the culture in which they are working, and the culture of the organisation which employs them.

In every culture in the world such phenomena as authority, bureaucracy, creativity, good fellowship, verification and accountability are experienced in different ways. That we use the same words to describe them tends to make us unaware that our cultural biases and our accustomed conduct may not be appropriate, or shared.

From Riding the Waves of Culture: Understanding Cultural Diversity in Business by Fons Trompenaars, Irwin Professional Publishing, Burr Ridge, Illinois, 1994.

- A There are certain popular universal truths about management which can successfully be applied in various cultural contexts.
- B Cultures are so varied and so different throughout the world that management has to take into account differences rather than simply assume similarities.
- C Effective management of human resources is the key to everyone achieving their full potential.

30

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#### 2 Read the text again. Identify the following:

- a) the problem with universal management solutions
- b) an example of the failure of pay-for-performance
- c) an example of the failure of management by objectives schemes
- d) the problem with human-resource management
- e) three cultures affecting international managers
- f) six areas in which different cultural interpretations apply.

# 2 Inviting, and accepting or declining









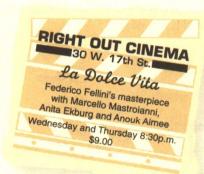
What kinds of social activities in your town could be appropriate ways of entertaining visitors from other countries?

- 1 Listen to the first example on the recording. You will hear a conversation in which someone invites a business associate to a social event. Identify:
  - a) what is being suggested
  - b) the response
  - c) what will happen next.
- 2 Listen to the second example, where someone else invites a different business associate to a social event. Identify:
  - a) what is being suggested
  - b) the response
  - c) what will happen next.

- (a) 3 Listen to the recording of three short extracts, where hosts invite their visitors to take part in a social activity. The invitations are rejected.
  - a) Identify each suggested activity.
  - b) Give the reasons for each rejection.
  - c) Do you think each rejection is appropriate? Explain your answer.

Activity	Reason for rejection	Comments
1		
2		
3		

4 Work in pairs. Use the advertisements below to invite your partner to something. He/she should respond. Then change roles so you both get to invite and accept or reject in each situation.



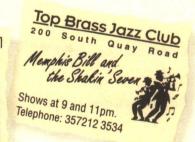
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