

# Communicate I

English for social interaction

*Keith Morrow and Keith Johnson*



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## To the student

### Who is *Communicate* for?

It's for adult learners of English. It's for people who have already studied English for a short time (maybe at school or at university). It's for people who want to learn to use English in Britain.

### What does *Communicate* do?

It shows you how to do things in English: for example, it shows you how to find out things, how to ask people to do things, how to suggest things to people. It also shows you what to say in situations: when you meet a person for the first time, when you say good-bye, when someone invites you to dinner. And it tells you a lot about living in Britain: how to use the telephones, how to book a taxi, how to get help if your car breaks down.

### How does *Communicate* work?

*Communicate* is not really a grammar book, so don't be surprised if the exercises seem strange at first. Often you will work in pairs or in groups. Again this will perhaps seem strange. But we want you to listen and to speak in English as much as possible.

We want you to learn to use the language to communicate.

We hope you enjoy it.

Keith Morrow

Keith Johnson

## Unit 1 Introductory

### A Doing things in English

- 1 Mr and Mrs Jones, Janet, Sue, John and Simon are all doing the same thing. What is it? Who do you think they are speaking or writing to? How well do they know that person?



WE'RE HAVING A PARTY  
NEXT THURSDAY. WOULD  
YOU LIKE TO COME?



MR and MRS JONES

Mr and Mrs F. A. Jones request the pleasure  
of Mr Michael Ashby's company at



JOHN AND I ARE  
GOING TO LONDON  
ON TUESDAY, AND  
WE THOUGHT  
YOU MIGHT LIKE  
TO JOIN US.  
YOU'D BE VERY  
WELCOME...

JOHN



BY THE WAY,  
SANDRA. ARE  
YOU FREE  
NEXT THURSDAY?  
THERE'S A  
DANCE ON AT  
THE TOWN HALL.  
I THOUGHT WE  
COULD GO  
TOGETHER.

HEY, JOHN. HOW  
ABOUT A QUICK  
DRINK BEFORE  
LUNCH?



SIMON



- 2 What do you think Jane, Arthur, Mike, Alison and Mr Hall are doing?

JANE



ARTHUR



MIKE



ALISON



MR HALL



Where are the speakers? Who are they talking to? How well do they know the person they're talking to? Think about what is happening.

- 3 Sometimes it's quite difficult to know what people are really saying. Here are some more sentences. They all look like questions.

Is that right?  
 Why don't you sit down?  
 Is this your hat?  
 Have you met Roger?  
 Could you close the door?  
 Have you finished with the salt?  
 Is that really the time?  
 Isn't that beautiful?

But are they really questions? Here are some things the speakers could be saying. Which sentences mean the same as the ones above?

I'm going to introduce you to Roger.  
 I must go now.  
 I want you to sit down.  
 Please pass the salt.  
 It really is beautiful.  
 Please close the door.  
 I think you've forgotten your hat.  
 I'm sure that's wrong.

- 4 i) What would *you* say in these situations?
- You're in the street and you want to know what the time is. You've left your watch at home. You go up to a stranger and say. . .
  - You're in a shop and you accidentally hit someone with your bag. You turn to the person and say. . .
  - Someone you met recently invites you to dinner at his house next week. You want to go, so you say. . .
  - You want to catch the train to London. You're at the station, but you're not sure which platform the train goes from. You go up to a porter and say. . .
  - Your best friend has just said something very stupid. You want to tell him that you disagree strongly. So you say. . .
- ii) You've just practised doing these things – in which sentences?
- accepting an invitation
  - disagreeing
  - asking for information
  - saying sorry
- iii) Think of some other ways of doing these things. When would you use them? In what situations?
- Did you find this exercise difficult? You have already learned quite a lot of English grammar, and you know lots of English words. But grammar and vocabulary aren't



everything. You must also learn to *do things in English* – like accepting invitations, disagreeing, asking for information, saying sorry.

In this book you will learn how to do these and other things with your English.

## B Doing the right thing

1 How much do you know about the way the British live and behave? Do this quiz.

### You're in Britain

- 1 You're visiting the house of a British friend. It's very beautiful. Do you:
  - a) tell him how beautiful it is?
  - b) ask how much it cost?
  - c) ask if he'll take you round every room?
- 2 You've arranged to meet a friend at 2.00. But you miss the train and you know you'll be at least two hours late. Do you:
  - a) decide not to meet your friend, and phone him the next day?
  - b) phone him, apologise and tell him you'll be late?
  - c) decide not to phone, and just arrive late?
- 3 A British acquaintance is having dinner at your house. His plate is empty. You offer him more food and he says no. Do you:
  - a) keep offering until he says yes?
  - b) just put the food on his plate without asking again?
  - c) offer once more, then give up if he still says no?
- 4 You meet a British friend in the street. You last saw him two days ago. Do you:
  - a) just say hello?
  - b) say hello and shake his hand?
  - c) put your arm round his shoulder and slap him on the back?
- 5 You're at a party and have just been introduced to someone. While you are talking he mentions that his wife is not at the party. Do you:
  - a) ask where his wife is?
  - b) change the subject?
  - c) ask if he gets on well with his wife?
- 6 You're having dinner at a British friend's house. You don't like the food he gives you at all. When he offers you some more, do you say:
  - a) 'No thanks. I don't like it'?
  - b) 'It was lovely but I really can't. ...'?
  - c) 'No, I don't want any more'?
- 7 You're in a railway carriage. There's someone else you don't know in the carriage. It's very hot and you'd like the window open. Do you:
  - a) open it without asking the other person?
  - b) ask the other person to open the window?
  - c) ask the other person if you can open the window?

## How did you score?

- |   |     |     |     |   |     |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 | a)5 | b)0 | c)2 | 5 | a)2 | b)5 | c)0 |
| 2 | a)0 | b)5 | c)0 | 6 | a)0 | b)5 | c)1 |
| 3 | a)1 | b)0 | c)5 | 7 | a)0 | b)2 | c)5 |
| 4 | a)5 | b)2 | c)0 |   |     |     |     |

## Your knowledge of British life

35–30 marks Well done, a good score. But don't be too confident. The quiz was really quite easy.

29–20 marks Not bad, but there's still a lot to learn.

19–10 marks You've got a lot to learn about British life.

9–0 marks Oh dear! You'd better study this book very hard.

- 2 In the quiz you saw seven situations. Now imagine you are in your own country, and everyone you are talking to is the same nationality as you. What would you say or do in these seven situations? Compare it with what the British would do.
  - 3 Does anything about the way British people behave seem strange to you? Think about how they behave in shops, railway stations, restaurants and other places. Is it different from the way people in your country behave? What do you think British people would find strange about life in your country?
- Grammar and vocabulary certainly aren't everything! If you want to communicate with British people properly, you must know about their way of life (even if you do not agree with the way they live).

In this book you will learn what British people say and do in different situations.

## Unit 2 Introductory

### A Doing things in English

1 JULIAN



TREVOR



GRAHAM



DR ADAMS



ANNE



MARTIN



What are these people doing?

Julian	is	giving an order
Graham		saying hello
Trevor		asking for something
Dr Adams		saying goodbye
Anne		offering to help
Martin		

In these pictures you can see there is more than one way of doing the same thing. Which way is better for each picture? Why? When can the other way be used?

## Unit 2 Introductory

- When you do things in English – like giving an order, saying hello, asking for something, saying goodbye, offering help – you must make sure what you say is right for the person you are talking to.
- 2 i) Here are some more examples of saying the same thing in different ways. First of all look at these:

I want to see you.  
Open the window.  
Don't smoke here.  
You're wrong.  
What?  
I don't believe you.  
Be quiet.

Which of these sentences mean the same as the ones above?

Are you sure that's true?  
Smoking is not allowed, I'm afraid.  
Would you mind making less noise.  
Could I see you for a moment?  
I'm not sure I agree with you.  
Would you open the window, please?  
I'm afraid I didn't catch what you said.

What is the difference between these ways of saying the same thing? Which ones are more polite? When would you use each?

- We are usually *polite* when we speak to strangers, and more *direct* when we speak to friends.

- ii) Are these expressions polite or direct?

What time is it?  
Could I borrow a cigarette please?  
I wonder if that's right.  
Nonsense!  
I want five 10p stamps.  
I hope I'm not disturbing you.  
I'm not sure I really agree with that.  
I was wondering if you could lend me £5.

Do you use different ways to talk to friends and strangers in your own language?  
Think about the differences.

- 3 Listen to these sentences on tape.  
Are the men: a) interested b) surprised c) doubtful d) bored?

JAMES: I bought a new coat today.

DAVID: Really. (a b c d)

PAULINE: I saw Mary and Fred in town.

MIKE: Really. (a b c d)

RITA: I had coffee with my mother.

PAUL: Really. (a b c d)

SALLY: Shall we go to the theatre tonight?

ALAN: Maybe. (a b c d)

LIZ: Do you want to wash the car tomorrow?

TONY: Maybe. (a b c d)

JILL: My mother says she likes your new coat.

EDDY: Oh. (a b c d)

CHRISTINE: Bill phoned this afternoon about the football match.

FRANK: Oh. (a b c d)

- You can see that in English, the same words can express different feelings. It depends *how* we say them. You must learn *what* to say, and also *how* to say it.

Expressing your feelings, and understanding others who are expressing their feelings – these are also things you must learn to do in English.

## B Saying the right thing

- 1 In unit 1 we looked at some of the things British people say and do in different situations. Do you know what to say in these situations?
  - a) You're in a restaurant and you want to have a steak. You like steaks which are not cooked too much. What would you ask for?
  - b) You need 2p to make a phone call. But you only have a pound note. Perhaps your friend can help. What would you ask him for?
  - c) You want to go by train to London. You'll be returning the same day (by train). You go to the station. What kind of a ticket do you ask for?
  - d) You have an account with a bank in Britain. You want to get details of the money you have paid in and taken out of your account recently. What do you ask the bank for?
  - e) You're in Bournemouth and you want to phone a friend in London. You want your friend to pay for the call. You go into a phone box and dial the operator. What kind of a call do you ask for?

2 What we say depends on *where* we are.

## i) Where do you think people might say these things:

- |                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| a) A pint of bitter, please.         | At a garage?          |
| b) Two singles to Brighton, please.  | At a station?         |
| c) Number, please.                   | On the telephone?     |
| d) Five of 4-star, please.           | In a pub?             |
| e) Where would you like the parting? | At the hairdresser's? |

## ii) What about these? Where are the people who are speaking?

I'm afraid it's engaged.  
 Here is the new single from the Dreamers.  
 What's your nationality?  
 Time, gentleman, please.  
 Twenty King Size, please.  
 How would you like the money?  
 Could I have the bill, please?  
 The station, please.

3 What we say also depends on *what* we are talking about.

## i) What do you think these people are talking about?

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| a) Quite nice for the time of year.        | a car?            |
| b) It melts in your mouth.                 | a football match? |
| c) It's the latest sports model.           | a book?           |
| d) They scored again just after half time. | the weather?      |
| e) It's out in paperback now.              | some food?        |

## ii) What about these? What are the people talking about?

It's a bit overdone.  
 Yes, but the ending was a bit strange.  
 It does 0-100 in 12.6 secs.  
 It's got a stereo cassette deck as well.  
 It only cost £2 a metre.  
 I prefer it black.  
 He won the first set 6-1.



## Unit 2 Introductory

iii) Here are parts of some advertisements taken from British newspapers. What do you think is being advertised? Can you fill in the missing words?

- 1 Our new ..... is designed ultra-slim to shave superbly close. It's as easy as shaving with your finger-tips.
- 2 A fine brushed chrome finish gives our ..... a sophisticated look, and it's a pleasure to write with too. Inside a pump like a tiny heart forces ink to the point, so it writes at any angle, even upside down.
- 3 Every stage of life brings new responsibilities. You need the sound protection of an ..... company to help you meet them as they come along. We can provide it through our range of specially designed policies.
- 4 Gently chilled, this fresh delicate ..... brings the taste of good food into clear focus.
- 5 ..... mixed with gin or vodka. One of the world's classical aperitifs. And after dinner you can stay with it all night. Some people have even been known to have it before and after lunch. Before and after sailing, golf, riding. Before and after just about anything.
- 6 Choose any three of the many ..... featured here for a total of £1 plus 80p towards postage and packing. That's our special offer to you. Then every month we'll send you advance information about many more new books by famous authors. Fiction. Crafts. History. Travel. Gardening. Just about every subject under the sun. And most of them well under the publisher's prices.
- 7 Now the Underground brings Heathrow Airport to London's doorstep. The new Heathrow Central Station connects the Piccadilly Line to all three Heathrow Terminals. So you can get from the London Underground to your departure lounge, under cover all the way. The journey from Piccadilly Circus to the heart of Heathrow takes 40 minutes. With a frequent service, trains every 4 minutes in peak hours. Take the ..... to Heathrow Airport. It's the only way to fly.
- 8 Give somebody one of our ..... for Christmas and you might end up inside it.

## Unit 3

### Arriving in Britain

#### A Immigration control and customs

##### 1 Practise these questions:



How would you reply?

Practise these replies:



Now practise the questions and replies together.

- ★ U.K. (United Kingdom) is the official name for the political unit which consists of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

## 2 Practise these questions:



How would you reply?

Practise these replies:



Now practise the questions and replies together.

- ★ 'No, of course not.' This is a very good way to reply to the question: 'Would you mind opening this suitcase, please?' It shows that you want to help the official. But it is very rude if you reply like this to the questions: 'Have you got anything to declare?' or 'Could you tell me what's in this suitcase, please?'

When you arrive in Britain you must declare certain things to the Customs officials. If you have nothing to declare, you can go through a 'green channel' without seeing the Customs. But be careful! Checks are often made and if they find that you have tried to smuggle things into the country you will be in serious trouble. If you have things to declare, or if you are not sure, go through the 'red channel' and see the Customs official.