

Conversation Challenge

My son's teacher goes by his first name! What is happening at that school?

How would you describe the communication preferences of the parent?
The teacher?



Conversation Challenge

The teacher said, "You could study more" to me. I wonder what else I could do tonight?

What did the teacher, an English speaker, think she said?
The student?



Conversation Challenge

What are you rethinking or wondering about communication?

Once you've shared with someone, swap cards.



Conversation Challenge

My teacher walked in the room and said, "Wow, it's hot in here" and then looked at me. I got in trouble for not opening the window.

How would you diagnose this miscommunication?



Conversation Challenge

My teacher is so mad at me for talking over her. I was just trying to show I was excited!

How would you describe the communication preferences of the student and the teacher using the term *overlap*?



Conversation Challenge

I adore my teacher, but I cannot call them by their first name like they asked.

How would you describe the communication preferences of the student and the teacher using the term *social distance*?



Conversation Challenge

What's the illocutionary force of *How are you?* to an English speaker? What about the equivalent expression to a Spanish speaker?

Discuss and swap!



Conversation Challenge

Depending on context, what can *I'm fine* mean? How would you describe the various illocutionary forces?

Discuss and swap!



Conversation Challenge

What do you think the illocutionary force of this statement is for an English speaker? A Japanese speaker?

Tomorrow, wouldn't you like to go to the park?



Conversation Challenge

Why are you **HERE**?

Why are **YOU** here?

WHY are you here?

Pick your favorite question to ask and answer.

Then, ask someone to trade!



Conversation Challenge

POWER

+ **power orientation** = Hierarchies are typically more prevalent in your speech choices.

- **power orientation** = You speak to people with different power than you about the same way, no matter the difference.

+ **power manifestations**: not questioning a boss, using direct commands with a subordinate

- **power manifestations**: ignoring advice from a superior, using mitigated language

Exchange cards with someone after reflecting on where your preferences lie.



Conversation Challenge

Want to learn more about pragmatics? Check out pragmatics.uoregon.edu!

To swap cards, scan the website for a source that you might be able to use in your own learning or professional work. Then share it with someone else.



Conversation Challenge

Thomas (1983) wrote:

“Sensitizing learners to expect cross-cultural differences in the linguistic realizations of politeness, truthfulness, etc., takes the teaching of language beyond the realms of mere training and makes it truly educational.”

Do you agree? Disagree?
Why?

Chat with someone and exchange cards.



Conversation Challenge

POLITENESS

+ **politeness** = typically more group-oriented, privileges relationship building

- **politeness** = typically more individually-oriented, privileges autonomy of individuals

Would you be more likely to insist that someone come to your party (+ politeness) or accept their refusal of your invitation immediately (- politeness)?

Exchange cards with someone after discussion!



Conversation Challenge

Compliments like this are common in Japanese, particularly with guests.

Try the conversation below with a partner in whatever language you like. Then reflect on how it makes you feel.

Compliment something
the other person is wearing

Take it off and give it to
the other person



Conversation Challenge

What does this phrase mean to you? When would you use it?

Talk about it with a partner and swap cards.

We should get coffee
sometime.



Conversation Challenge

What is backchanneling?
Check out CASLS' YouTube channel!

To swap cards, watch one of these videos with someone and talk about one thing you learned or an idea that was reinforced for you.



Conversation Challenge

The invitation sequence below is typical of many interactions between English speakers.

Try this conversation with a partner in whatever language you like. Then reflect on how it makes you feel.

How are you?

Fine/Okay

Goodbye

Goodbye





Conversation Challenge

The greeting sequence below is typical of many interactions between Spanish speakers.

Try this conversation with a partner in whatever language you like. Then reflect on how it makes you feel.

How are you?

Honest answer

Ask questions

Respond



Conversation Challenge

Want a quick overview of social distance? Check out CASLS' YouTube channel!

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Conversation Challenge

The invitation sequence below is typical of many interactions between Spanish speakers.

Try this conversation with a partner in whatever language you like. Then reflect on how it makes you feel.

Invite

Reject

Insist

Reject

Insist

Reject

Accept



Conversation Challenge

Try this conversation below with a partner in whatever language you like. Then reflect on how it makes you feel.

Praise lavishly

Respond



Conversation Challenge

Want a quick overview of rank of imposition? Check out CASLS' YouTube channel!

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Conversation Challenge

SOCIAL DISTANCE

+ social distance = Someone with whom you aren't very close.

-social distance = Someone with whom you are close

What are some communication strategies you use to maximize distance?

Possible answers:

- 1) Formal language
- 2) Last names/Titles
- 3) Withhold personal details



Conversation Challenge

The leave taking sequence below is common in some varieties of English.

Try this conversation with a partner in whatever language you like. Then reflect on how it makes you feel.

Goodbye

Goodbye



Conversation Challenge

When do you feel misunderstood because of how you communicate?

Exchange a card with someone after talking about an instance where what you mean isn't always correctly interpreted by others.



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Conversation Challenge

Why are you **HERE**?

Why are **YOU** here?

WHY are you here?

Pick your favorite question to ask and answer.

Then, ask someone to trade!





Conversation Challenge

How do you feel if someone talks over you? What do you think they communicate by talking over you?

Discuss and swap!



Conversation Challenge

A student breaks a pencil they borrowed from you in class, but doesn't think it's a big deal. You do.

How might your communication preferences be different?



Conversation Challenge

You ruin a friend's sweater. You offer to pay for it, but that upsets them.

Why?



Conversation Challenge

Option A:

Hey! Can you drive me to the airport?

Option B:

I am so so so sorry to even ask, but could you give me a ride to the airport? I'll buy you a tank of gas.

Which option indicates that time carries a high imposition for the speaker?



Conversation Challenge

Option A:

[Enters a scheduled meeting]: Good morning. How was your weekend?

Option B:

[Enters a scheduled meeting]: I'm so sorry to bother. I just need 10 minutes of your time.

Which option indicates that time is likely carries a high imposition for the speaker?



Conversation Challenge



Which learner is the most likely to encode power in their communication choices?



Conversation Challenge

What is your communication superpower?

Chat with someone and exchange cards.



Conversation Challenge



Which teacher is the least likely to encode power in their communication choices?



Conversation Challenge

"My Learners can respectfully disagree with me whenever!"

Do you think this educator encodes power differentials in their communication? How do you know?





Conversation Challenge +

"I have a learner who keeps interrupting me when I talk. It's distracting."



Do you think this educator encodes power differentials in their communication? How do you know?



Conversation Challenge +

SOCIAL DISTANCE

+ **social distance** = Someone with whom you aren't very close.

- **social distance** = Someone with whom you are close

What's one solidarity building strategy you use when communicating to lessen distance?

Possible answers:

-Use first names or other informal language

-Emphasize commonality

-Invite and insist that someone join you



Conversation Challenge +

Locutionary Force: Literal meaning

What is the difference between what James said and what he meant? Stephanie?

James [leaning against Stephanie's locker]: Hey, do you have plans this weekend?

Stephanie: Kind of. I mean, I have to work.

James: Oh. Okay.

Stephanie: [Pauses] Okay. Well, bye!



Conversation Challenge +

Perlocutionary Force: Impact(s) of communicative choices on fellow speakers.

What are the perlocutionary forces on Stephanie? On James?

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Conversation Challenge +

Illocutionary Force: Intended Meaning

What is the illocutionary force of each person in the conversation below?

James [leaning against Stephanie's locker]: Hey, do you have plans this weekend?

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James: Oh. Okay.

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Conversation Challenge +



I give very direct commands to my employees.



My commands are questions or suggestions.

Reflect on your preferences? When are you more like the blue alien? Orange?



Conversation Challenge +

I prefer when my employees bring up ideas in private.



Any time is a great time to share ideas with my boss..



Are you more red or green? What about your boss or employee?



Conversation Challenge +

It's a big deal to ask for someone's time.



Time is easy to share with others! It's a big deal to ask for things.



Who do you know that is like the green alien? The purple alien?



Conversation Challenge +

I'll probably make future plans before saying goodbye.

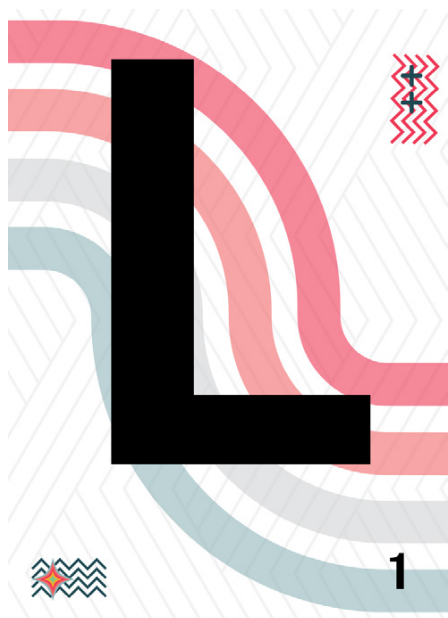


I'll just say a simple goodbye...or sneak out without saying anything.



Are you like the purple alien or the yellow alien?





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Conversation Challenge

Imposition

+imposition = The situation is severe.
-imposition = The situation isn't severe.

What is severe is culturally and individually defined, and it impacts our communication strategies.

If you owe someone a big apology (imposition is high), what are you going to do? What if you know they will be more annoyed that you're taking up their time?



Conversation Challenge

Imposition

+imposition = The situation is severe.
-imposition = The situation isn't severe.

What is severe is culturally and individually defined, and it impacts our communication strategies.

Share your thoughts about the following questions with someone to exchange cards.

What's a bigger ask for you:
Borrowing \$100 or borrowing someone's car?
How would you ask?



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My teacher walked in the room and said, "Wow, it's hot in here" and then looked at me. I got in trouble for not opening the window.

How would you diagnose this miscommunication?



Conversation Challenge

SOCIAL DISTANCE

+ **social distance** = Someone with whom you aren't very close.

- **social distance** = Someone with whom you are close

Distance maximizing strategies:

Use titles when communicating

Distance minimizing strategies:

Use first names when communicating

Are you more likely to use distance-minimizing strategies or distance-maximizing strategies? When? Exchange cards with someone after discussion!



Conversation Challenge

The invitation sequence below is typical of many interactions between English speakers.

Try this conversation with a partner in whatever language you like. Then reflect on how it makes you feel.

How are you?

Fine/Okay

Goodbye

Goodbye



Conversation Challenge

The greeting sequence below is typical of many interactions between Spanish speakers.

Try this conversation with a partner in whatever language you like. Then reflect on how it makes you feel.

How are you?

Honest answer

Ask questions

Respond



Conversation Challenge

The expressions of gratitude below are common in Chinese.

Try this conversation with a partner in whatever language you like. Then reflect on how it makes you feel.

Gives gift

Apologizes (for the trouble)

Shows Care

Thanks

Responds



Conversation Challenge

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Insist

Reject

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Praise lavishly

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Goodbye

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Pre-Closer

Question

Response

Thanks

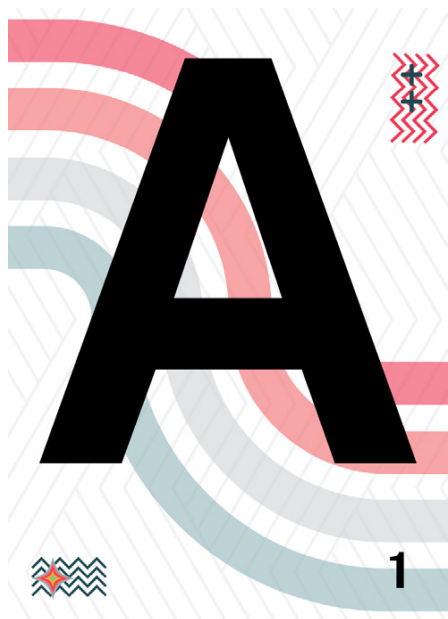
Thanks

Chat

Chat

Goodbye





Conversation Challenge

The expressions of gratitude below are common in Chinese.

Try the conversation below with a partner in whatever language you like. Then reflect on how it makes you feel.

Gives

Apologize

Shows Care

Responds



Conversation Challenge

Did the person eat a lot of blueberries?

Chat with someone and swap cards.

Did you eat all of the blueberries?

I didn't eat ALL of them.



Conversation Challenge

Which would you say? Talk about why it might matter with someone and swap cards.

Hint: Superman's other name/persona is Clark Kent.

Option A:
Superman can fly.

Option B:
Clark Kent can fly.



Conversation Challenge

What does this phrase mean to you? When would you use it?

Talk about it with a partner and swap cards.

We should get coffee sometime.



Conversation Challenge

What does this phrase mean to you? When/how would you use it?

Talk about it with a partner and swap cards.

[Pencil breaks]
I need a pencil.



Conversation Challenge

What are you rethinking or wondering about communication?

Once you've shared with someone, swap cards.



Conversation Challenge

Try the conversation below with a partner in whatever language you like. Then, reflect on how it makes you feel.

Answer this question:

What are you most proud of?

[Start to answer while they are still speaking]



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Conversation Challenge

Compliments like this are common in Japanese, particularly with guests.

Try the conversation below with a partner in whatever language you like. Then reflect on how it makes you feel.

Compliment something the other person is wearing

[Pretend to take it off and give it to the other person]



Conversation Challenge

Thomas (1983) wrote:

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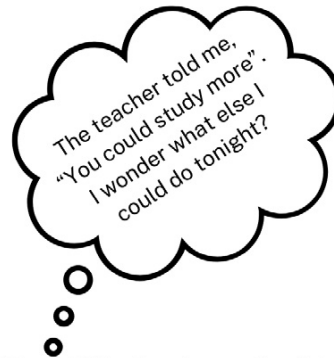
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Would you be more likely to insist that someone come to your party (+ politeness) or accept their refusal of your invitation immediately (- politeness)?

Exchange cards with someone after discussion!



Conversation Challenge



What did the teacher, an English speaker, intend to say?
How did the student understand it?



Conversation Challenge

A student breaks a pencil they borrowed from you in class, but doesn't think it's a big deal. You do.

How might your communication preferences be different?



Conversation Challenge

You accidentally damage a friend's sweater. You offer to pay for it, but instead of accepting, they seem upset.

Why do you think they reacted this way?



Conversation Challenge

Option A:

Hey! Can you drive me to the airport?

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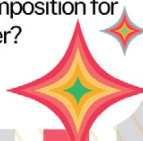
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Conversation Challenge



Which learner is the most likely to encode power in their communication choices?



Conversation Challenge

When have you felt misunderstood because of how you communicate?

Share with someone and swap cards!



Conversation Challenge

What is your communication superpower?

Chat with someone and exchange cards.



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Conversation Challenge +



Which teacher is the least likely to encode power in their communication choices?



Conversation Challenge

What advice would you give a younger you?

Find another participant to chat with about this and exchange cards.



Conversation Challenge



How would you describe the communication preferences of the parent? The teacher?



Conversation Challenge +



Do you think this educator encodes power differentials in their communication? How do you know?



Conversation Challenge +



Do you think this educator encodes power differentials in their communication? How do you know?



Conversation Challenge +

Locutionary Force: Literal Meaning

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Conversation Challenge



Reflect on your own preferences: When are you more like the blue alien? The orange one?





Conversation Challenge

I prefer when my employees bring up ideas in private.



Any time is a great time to share ideas with my boss..



Are you more like red or green?
What about your boss or an employee?



Conversation Challenge

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Time is easy to share with others! It's a big deal to ask for things.



Who do you know that is like the green alien? Who do you know that is like the purple alien?



Conversation Challenge

I'll probably make future plans before saying goodbye.



I'll just say a simple goodbye...or sneak out without saying anything.



Are you like the purple alien or the yellow alien?



Conversation Challenge

What is giving you hope these days?

Chat with anyone and exchange cards with them.



Conversation Challenge

What was your proudest moment?

Chat with anyone at the and exchange cards.



Conversation Challenge

Want a quick overview of politeness? Check out CASLS' YouTube channel!

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Conversation Challenge

Looking for a quick overview of language and power? Check out CASLS' YouTube channel!

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Conversation Challenge

"Never ruin an apology with an excuse."
-Benjamin Franklin

Do you agree or disagree?
Why?



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