

# English Conversation Foundation

## MP3's and Textbook



First Edition: Summer 2008. Dialogs, "Publication", and Errors by Julian Tyler Lee

Welcome to the Peace Corps China English Conversation Series, a 3-piece set of dialogs extending from foundational questions and answers to advanced, topical conversations. ECF is the first in the series, intended for students with only a basic vocabulary and little or no formal training in grammar, question and answer structures. Experience has shown these lessons to be most effective in smaller classroom groups or individual tutoring (in which there is no other communication partner than the student), although larger classes may also find the exercises useful.

Each dialog consists of either a language concept with question and answer forms or characters acting out a dialog on a particular language topic. Speaking speed is extremely slow so that beginners can focus on each word in a sentence, important for both comprehension and pronunciation. Difficulty of the topics increases somewhat as the lessons progress, but the numbered order is by no means a suggested sequence. Nor, unfortunately, is this meant to be a comprehensive course in *everything* a beginning learner needs to know before moving on to an intermediate stage. Several question forms, verb tenses, and likely many other foundational concepts are not treated in their own dialogs, due to constraints on time and resources during the R&D phase. Third World excuses aside, it is hoped that this will still be useful for the EFL/ESL teacher with similarly limited resources.

Experience with very low-level learners shows that, without the texts in front of them, the audio must be stopped often to check comprehension, and questions should be asked after each individual line of dialog (i.e. after a single Q & A set). Text may of course be provided to students as long as one is aware that the exercises become more of a listening, *reading*, and speaking activity than just one of listening and speaking.

Dialogs were written and recorded in summer of 2006 in Sichuan, Peoples Republic of China, by members of the U.S.-China Friendship volunteers, although this publication is not affiliated with this group or the U.S. Peace Corps. Content is the sole responsibility of those who created it. This is meant to be copied and distributed freely but never to be sold! All participants involved were native speakers. If you have questions or comments, please contact the author at:

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Lesson Number: Title (Question, Answer) OR (Number of characters A, B, C, D) [Number of minutes : Number of seconds]

Remember to answer the questions in English, in complete sentences! Just saying "yes" or "no" won't help you practice or improve very much.

Lesson 1: Opinions (Q, A) [1:44]

Q: Do you think it's hard to study English?

A: I'd say! Learning English is really hard.

Q: Do you think it will rain today?

A: It's hard to say. I think it might rain, but I don't know.

Q: Do you think your English teacher is smart?

A: Of course! I don't think there's anyone smarter!

Q: Do you think it was a good book?

A: Not really. In my opinion, it was too long.

Q: What do you think of ice cream?

A: I think it tastes good, but it's not very healthy.



DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

1. Does he think it is easy to study English?
2. Does he think studying English is only a little difficult or very difficult?
3. Does he think it will rain today? Is he sure of his opinion?
4. What does he think of his English teacher?
5. Why doesn't he think it was a good book?
6. Is his opinion of ice cream 100% good or bad?



CAN YOU DO IT?

1. What do you think of English? Is it easy or hard to learn?

2. Do you think it rains too much where you live?

3. Do you think books are interesting? Why/why not?

4. In your opinion, how much ice cream should parents let their children eat?

5. Who do you think is the smartest person you know?



Lesson 2: Yes or No Questions 1 (Q, A) [2:54]

Q: Are you an English major? You're an English major, aren't you?

A: No, I'm not an English major. I'm a science major.

Q: Can you speak any other languages besides English? You can speak some other languages besides English, can't you?

A: Yes. Besides English, I can also speak French and Spanish.

Q: Couldn't you understand the teacher? You could understand the teacher, couldn't you?

A: No, I couldn't understand her.

Q: Did you go home with them? You went home with them, didn't you?

A: No, I went home with my friends.

Q: Don't you like to play soccer? You like to play soccer, don't you?

A: Actually, yes, I love playing soccer!

Q: You don't really have to go, do you? Do you really have to go?

A: Yes, I'm afraid I have to go.

Q: Have you ever left this country before? You've left this country before, haven't you?

A: No, I have never left the country before.



**DID YOU UNDERSTAND?**

1. Is he an English major or a science major?
2. What other languages can he speak besides English?
3. Could he understand his English teacher?
4. With whom did he go home?
5. What does he think of soccer?
6. Does he have to go or not?
7. Has he ever been to another country before?



**CAN YOU DO IT?**

1. Do you go to college? If so, are you an English major?
2. Is English your native (first) language?
3. Can you usually understand your English teacher?
4. Do you always go home alone after class?
5. Do you like to play soccer? Do you usually call soccer "football"? Is American football the same as soccer?
6. Do you have to go home after class?
7. Have you ever gone to another country?



**Lesson 3: Yes or No Questions 2 (Q, A) [2:24]**

- Q: Isn't this your hometown? This is your hometown, isn't it?
- A: No, my hometown is very far away.
- Q: Should we go now? We should go now, shouldn't we?
- A: Yes, we should definitely go now.
- Q: Weren't we going to go to the bank? We were going to go to the bank, weren't we?
- A: Yes, we were going to go there, but now it's too late.
- Q: Won't you get in trouble if you do that? You will get into trouble if you do that, won't you?
- A: Yes, I'll probably get into a lot of trouble.
- Q: Would you like to see a movie with me? You would like to see a movie with me, wouldn't you?
- A: Yes, I would really enjoy seeing a movie with you.
- Q: Could you please lend me a hand carrying this?
- A: Sure, let me help you.
- Q: Would you please hand me the scissors?
- A: No problem. Here you go.



**DID YOU UNDERSTAND?**

1. Is her hometown near here or far away?
2. Should they be going now?
3. Were they going to go to the bank? Is their bank open?
4. Does she think she will get into trouble?
5. Would she like to see a movie with him?
6. Could she help him carry something?
7. Does she give him a pair of scissors? Does she give him a pencil?

**CAN YOU DO IT?**

1. Are you in your hometown now? If not, is your hometown near here?

2. Should you review your English lesson after class is over? Will you? Should you lie to your teacher?
3. Were you going to go to the bank after class?
4. Won't you get in trouble if you don't answer this question in a complete sentence?
5. Would you like to see a movie after class? Is there a movie theater nearby?
6. Could you please help the students who don't understand?
7. Would you please answer this question in a complete, English sentence?

**Lesson 4: A or B Questions (Q, A) [3:12]**

- Q: Who is your best friend: Cassie, Kathy, or Casey?
- A: They are all good friends of mine. I like them all equally.
- Q: Do you think George Bush is a good or bad president?
- A: I think he's a bad president.
- Q: Do you think we are better or worse off than 10 years ago?
- A: I think we are better off than we were 10 years ago.
- Q: Would you rather be rich or beautiful?
- A: Can't I be both?
- Q: No.
- A: I guess I'd better be rich.
- Q: Which do you prefer: books or movies?
- A: I prefer movies.
- Q: Would you rather play basketball, soccer, or ping pong?
- A: I would rather play basketball.
- Q: Would you rather drink coffee or tea?
- A: Either coffee or tea is fine.
- Q: Would you rather eat dog or cat?
- A: Neither is very appealing, so I choose neither.
- Q: Which of your students is the smartest?
- A: I think they are all very smart.



**DID YOU UNDERSTAND?**

1. Does he have only one best friend?
2. What kind of president does he think George Bush is?
3. Does he think we are "better off" than ten years ago?
4. Would he rather be rich or beautiful?
5. Does he prefer books or movies?
6. Which sport would he rather play?
7. Does he prefer coffee or tea?
8. Would he rather eat cat or dog?
9. Does he think any one of his students is the smartest?



**CAN YOU DO IT?**

1. Do you prefer milk, juice, coffee, or tea?
2. Would you rather be rich or beautiful (if you could only be one or the other)?
3. Which of your country's leaders do you think was the best?
4. Is your life better or worse than ten years ago?
5. Do you prefer to read books or watch movies?
6. Would you rather be poor or sick?
7. Which of your classmates do you think are smartest?

## Lesson 5: Likes and Dislikes (Q, A) [2:27]

Q: Do you like TV?

A: Yes, I really like TV.

Q: Do you like to watch TV?

A: I like to watch TV a lot.

Q: Do you enjoy watching TV?

A: Yes, I am rather fond of watching TV.

Q: What do you think of dogs?

A: I hate dogs. I think they're dirty.

Q: What did you think of class today?

A: I didn't like it. I thought it was boring.

Q: What do you think of volleyball?

A: I don't really like to play it, but I enjoy watching it.

Q: What's your take on rock music?

A: I'm not really interested in it.

Q: What are your thoughts on this city?

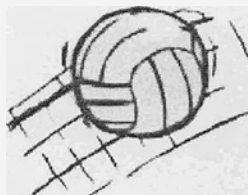
A: I think it's too big, and it is polluted.

Q: Don't you just love English?

A: Actually, I think it's too complicated.

Q: I really like pop music, especially this song! How about you?

A: Ugh! I can't stand it!



### DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

1. What does she think of TV?
2. Why does she hate like dogs?
3. Why didn't she like today's class?
4. Does she like to watch or play volleyball more?
5. She's not interested in rock music, is she?
6. Do you think she likes the city or not? Why/why not?
7. Who do you think likes English more: he or she?
8. What does she think of his favorite song?

### CAN YOU DO IT?

1. Do you like to watch TV?
2. Do you know anyone who really likes or really hates dogs? If so, who?
3. What do you usually think of English class?
4. Do you like to watch or play sports more?
5. What kinds of music are you interested in?
6. Would you like to live in a big city, a small town, or in the country?
7. Why do many people love or hate to learn English?
8. Do you and your classmates or friends like the same songs?

## Lesson 6: Have You Ever...? (Q, A) [2:43]

Q: Have you ever gone abroad?

A: No, I have never gone abroad.

Q: Have we ever been to this restaurant?

A: Yup, we have been here twice.

Q: Has she ever given you a gift?



A: Uh-huh, she gives me a gift every year.

Q: Have you ever flown in an airplane?

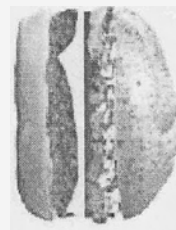
A: Nope, but I would like to try some day.

Q: We've seen this movie, haven't we?

A: No, it's brand new, so we couldn't have.

Q: You've tried western food before, right?

A: Oh yes, I eat it all the time in the USA.



### DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

1. Has she ever gone abroad?
2. Have they ever been to that restaurant?
3. Has she ever given her a gift?
4. Has she ever flown in an airplane?
5. Have they ever seen the movie? Could they have seen it?
6. Has she eaten western food before?



### CAN YOU DO IT?

1. Have you ever left the country before?
2. Have you ever been to a Japanese restaurant?
3. Has anyone ever given you an expensive gift?
4. Have you ever flown in an airplane?
5. Have you ever seen the movie "Titanic"?
6. Have you ever tried western food?



## Lesson 7: Kinds/Types/Sorts (Q, A) [2:19]

Q: What kind of food would you like to eat?

A: Since it's a cold day, I'd like to eat something hot.

Q: What type of cel phone should I buy?

A: I think you should buy one that can take pictures.

Q: Is this some kind of joke?

A: No, we are serious.

Q: What types of clothes do you usually wear?

A: I don't really care about fashion, so any kind will do.

Q: Do you think my girlfriend is nice?

A: Well, yes, but she's still not the sort of -girl you bring home to mom.

Q: What kind of friend always makes fun of somebody and borrows money?

A: Not a very good friend.



### DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

1. What kind of food would she like to eat?
2. What kind of cel phone does she think he should buy?
3. Are they playing some kind of joke on her?
4. Does she care about what kind of clothes she wears?
5. Does she think his girlfriend is "the kind you bring home to mom"?
6. What kind of friend does she think he is talking about?

### CAN YOU DO IT?

1. What kind of food would you like to eat?
2. What kind of cel phone do you have/would you buy?

3. Is this exercise some kind of joke?
4. What type of clothes do you wear?
5. What kind of girlfriend/boyfriend would you "bring home" to meet your mother?
6. Do you have any friends of the type they mention (who aren't very nice)? Is that kind of friend really a friend at all?

### Lesson 8: Times (Q, A) [1:17]

Q: What time do you usually eat dinner?

A: I usually eat dinner at 6:00.

Q: What time did you eat lunch yesterday?

A: I ate lunch at noon yesterday.

Q: What time will you have breakfast tomorrow?

A: I will have breakfast at 7:30 tomorrow morning.

Q: How late did you stay up last night?

A: I stayed up until midnight last night.

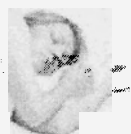
Q: Do you often sleep in on weekends?

A: Oh yes, I sure do. Sometimes I don't get up until noon on Saturday and Sunday.



### DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

1. What time does she usually eat dinner?
2. What time did she eat lunch yesterday?
3. What time will she have breakfast tomorrow?
4. How late did she stay up last night?
5. How late does she sometimes sleep in on weekends?



### CAN YOU DO IT?

1. What time do you usually eat breakfast?
2. Did you eat lunch yesterday? If so, what time was it when you ate?
3. What time will you have dinner tonight?
4. How late did you stay up last night?
5. Do you sometimes "sleep in" on weekends? What times do you get up on weekdays and weekends?

### Lesson 9: Dates (Q, A) [0:59]

Q: What is today's date?

A: Today is (DAY OF WEEK, MONTH, DAY, YEAR). (Sat. Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006)

Q: When were you born?

A: I was born on (MONTH, DAY, YEAR). (Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>, 1982.)

Q: When is America's Independence Day?

A: It is on the fourth of July.

Q: On what date does winter start?

A: Winter starts on the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> of December.

Q: When do schools in the USA come back from winter vacation.

A: School usually starts again on January 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> of the new year.

### DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

1. On what date was this recorded (the date given as "today" in the dialog)?
2. When was he born?
3. On what date did the USA become independent?
4. On what days in December does winter start?
5. When does America's winter vacation from school end?

### CAN YOU DO IT?

1. What is today's/tomorrow's date? What was yesterday's date?
2. When were you born?
3. On what date did your country become independent?
4. On what day does summer/spring/rainy/hot/cool season start?
5. On what dates do schools in your country go on vacation?

### Lesson 10: How Much / How Many (Q, A) [1:16]

Q: How many days are in a year?

A: There are 365 days in a year. OR A year has 365 days.

Q: How much water do you drink in a day?

A: I drink six cups of water every day.



Q: How many people live in China?

A: China has about 1.3 billion people.

Q: How much money do you have?

A: I don't have a lot of money right now.

Q: How many times have you heard that song?

A: I must've heard it a million times by now.

Q: How much time do you need to get ready?

A: Please give me half an hour and I'll be ready.

### DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

1. What are two ways to say the number of days in a year?
2. How much water does she drink in a day?
3. How many people are there in China?
4. How much money does she have right now?
5. How many times does she think she has heard that song? Do you think she has really heard it that many times?
6. How much time does she need to get ready?

### CAN YOU DO IT?

1. How many days are in a month? Does every month have the same number of days?
2. How much water do you drink in a day?
3. How many people are there in your country? Are there as many as in China?
4. How much money does a person need to live comfortably here?
5. How many times have you heard the song "Happy Birthday"?
6. How much time do you use to get ready for a big test?

Lesson 11: How Often 1 (Q, A) [2:57]

Q: How many times a week do you eat out?  
A: I eat out two times a week.  
Q: How often do you eat in restaurants?  
A: I eat in restaurants twice a week.  
Q: How many times a week do you have gym class?  
A: I attend gym class one time per week.  
Q: How often do you go to PE class?  
A: I have PE once a week.  
Q: How many sessions of physical education do you have?  
A: There is only one period of physical education per week.  
Q: How often does it rain here?  
A: It only rains once or twice a month.  
Q: How many rainy days are there per month here?  
A: There are only one or two days per month when it rains.  
Q: How often does that TV show come on?  
A: It's on seven days a week, so that's every day.

DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

- 1. How many times a week does she eat in a restaurant?
- 2. How often does she have gym/PE/physical education class?
- 3. How often does it rain where she lives? Does she think it rains often?
- 4. How often does her TV show come on?

CAN YOU DO IT?

- 1. Do you eat in restaurants very often? If so, how often? If not, how rarely do you eat out?
- 2. How often do you have English class? How many periods are in a day of classes, and how long is a period?
- 3. How often does it rain where you live? Do you think it rains often here?
- 4. How often is your favorite show on TV?

Lesson 12: How Often 2 (Q, A) [3:01]

Q: How often do you eat in the cafeteria?  
A: Not very often. I usually eat off campus.  
Q: Do you play a lot of basketball?  
A: Sure do! I'm out on the courts about every other day.  
Q: Does the sun ever shine here?  
A: Pretty rarely. There are always too many clouds.  
Q: Do you ever make Chinese food at home?  
A: Sometimes, but if I want to eat Chinese I usually go out.  
Q: Are you a heavy smoker?  
A: Certainly not. I never ever smoke cigarettes and never want to start.  
Q: Do you always wash your clothes yourself?  
A: Most of the time, yeah, but I occasionally take them to a dry-cleaner.  
Q: How often do you brush your teeth?  
A: Not nearly enough. My dentist says if I don't start



brushing more often, they will all fall out!  
Q: You don't get out very often, do you?  
A: Nope. Only once in a blue moon.

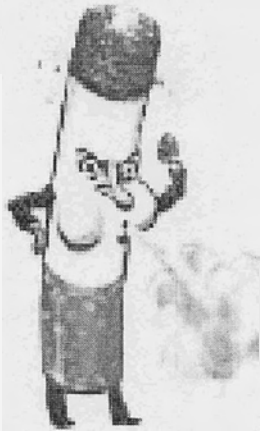
DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

- 1. How often does he eat in the cafeteria? Where does he usually eat?
- 2. How often does he play basketball?
- 3. How often does the sun shine where he lives? Is it often cloudy?
- 4. Does he cook or go out for Chinese food more often?
- 5. How often does he smoke cigarettes? How often does a "heavy smoker" smoke?
- 6. Who usually washes his clothes? How often does he get them dry-cleaned?
- 7. How often does he brush his teeth? How often should one brush them?
- 8. How often does he "get out" (of the house)? How often is "once in a blue moon"?



CAN YOU DO IT?

- 1. Is there a cafeteria near you? If so, how often do you eat there?
- 2. What sport do you play most often? How often do you play it?
- 3. How often do you get a sunny day where you live? Is it sunny more or less often than here?
- 4. Do you cook or go out for meals more often?
- 5. Who do you know is a heavy smoker? How often do they smoke?
- 6. Do you brush your teeth two to three times a day? Why/why not so often?
- 7. How often do you "get out" and do something fun with others?
- 8. What do you do only "once in a blue moon"?



## Lesson 13: Both, All, Either, Neither, None (A, B, C) (Abbie, Beatrice, Carrie) [2:19]

A: Hi, Beatrice!  
 B: Hi, Abbie!  
 A: Have you eaten yet?  
 B: No, I haven't  
 A: Neither have I.  
 B: Are you hungry?  
 A: Not really. How about you?  
 B: I'm not very hungry either.  
 A: How strange! It's noon, but neither of us is hungry.  
 B: Did you have a big breakfast?  
 A: I sure did.  
 B: So did I.  
 A: So we both had a lot for breakfast. That must be why neither of us wants lunch.  
 B: Yes, both of us must still be full.  
 A: Oh, look! Here comes Carrie.  
 A&B: Hi, Carrie!  
 C: Hey, guys! Have you had lunch yet?  
 B: No, neither of us has eaten.  
 C: I haven't eaten either.  
 A: So none of us have eaten, and none of us are hungry.  
 C: Actually, I'm starving! Can we all go and get something to eat?  
 B: Well, neither Abby or I is hungry, but we'd both be glad to go with you.  
 C: Maybe we'll all be hungry by the time we get there. Let's go!



### DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

1. Has Abbie eaten yet? Has Beatrice? Have either Abbie or Beatrice eaten yet?
2. Is Abbie hungry? Is Beatrice? Is either Abbie or Beatrice hungry?
3. What does Abbie think is strange?
4. Did Abbie have a big breakfast? Did Beatrice? Did Abbie and Beatrice both have a big breakfast?
5. Why do neither Abbie or Beatrice want lunch?
6. Before and after Carrie arrives, how many characters are in this dialog?
7. Give at least two ways that Abbie, Beatrice, and Carrie are the same.
8. How is Carrie different from Abbie and Beatrice?
9. What does Carrie suggest they all do? Where will they go together?
10. Why do Abbie and Beatrice agree to go with Carrie if they aren't hungry?

### CAN YOU DO IT?

1. How are you and your English teacher similar or the same? How are you similar to your best friend? (Use "BOTH" in your answers!)
2. What does your family all like to do together? What should all the students in an English class do? (Use "ALL" in your answers!)
3. What do none of your classmates or friends like to do? Which American

president went to war with Canada? (Use "NONE" in your answers!)

4. Which pole has warm weather: the North Pole or the South Pole? Which country is small: China or Russia? (Use "NEITHER" in your answers!)
5. Are you from Antarctica? Is your English teacher from Antarctica? (Use "EITHER" in your answer!) Are either you or your English teacher from Antarctica? (Use "NEITHER" in your answer!)
6. Do you live on a boat? Does your English teacher live on a boat? (Use "EITHER" in your answer!) Does either your English teacher or you live on a boat? (Use "NEITHER" in your answer!) How about your friends—do any of them live on boats? (Use "NONE" in your answer!)

## Lesson 14: How Are You? (A, B, C, D) [1:08]

A: Hey there. How are you?  
 B: I'm all right. How 'bout you? How ya' doin'?  
 A: You know...same old...same old.  
 B: Hey, look who's comin'!  
 C: Hey guys, how's it hangin'?  
 A: Doing fine. And yourself?  
 B: Yeah, what's up?  
 C: Nothin' much. Just chillin'. Hey, isn't that D over there?  
 A: Yeah, here he comes.  
 D: Well look who's here! What's the haps, bro?  
 B: What up, D?  
 D: I been better, but no worries, man!



### DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

1. How is B doing?
2. How is A doing? Is there anything new or exciting in A's life?
3. What has C been doing lately?
4. Is D surprised to see everyone together? How can you tell?
5. What has been happening with D? Are things going well for him? Is he worried about anything?
6. How well do you think these people know each other?
7. Is this a formal or informal conversation? How do you know?
8. Are any of them doing something very exciting, or is it just an average day?

### CAN YOU DO IT?

1. What's new with you? 2. What have you been up to lately?
3. What's on your mind? 4. Do you ever "chill" or "hang out" with your friends? If so, when, and what do you do?
5. If you are having a really bad day, what might you say to your friends who ask "how are you"? Should you tell them everything that has "gone wrong" immediately?
6. Is it okay to say you are anything other than "fine" or "well" in a formal situation? Why/why not?
7. Do you think D will talk about exactly what is wrong? Do you think his friends will ask him? Why/why not?

Lesson 15: When Will You...? (Q, A) [1:48]

Q: When will you go home?  
A: I will go home in 15 minutes. OR I will go home at noon. OR I will go home on Thursday. OR I will go home in 2008. OR I will go home when my mother calls. OR I will go home as soon as the sun goes down.

Q: When will you get married?  
A: I'm going to get married in six months. OR I will get married at 1:00 tomorrow. OR I will get married on Saturday. OR I will get married in 2008. OR I'm going to get married when the weather warms up. OR I will get married as soon as I fall in love.

DID YOU UNDERSTAND? (Best to stop the audio and ask each question before the "OR" for this dialog)

- 1. How long will it be before she goes home?
- 2. What time will she go home?
- 3. On what day will she go home?
- 4. In what year will she go home?
- 5. What will she do when her mother calls?
- 6. When the sun goes down, what will she do?
- 7. How long will it be before he gets married?
- 8. What time will he get married tomorrow?
- 9. On what day will he get married?
- 10. What will he do in 2008?
- 11. When the weather warms up, what will he do?
- 12. What will he do as soon as he falls in love?



CAN YOU DO IT?

- 1. Use an amount of time, a time, a day, a year, and an event to say when you will do something. Example questions: When will you eat dinner, meet your friend, go to sleep, graduate, get a job, retire, (etc.)?

Lesson 16: Not Understanding (A, B) [1:25]

A: *Where* did you say you were from?  
B: Hmm? Sorry, I didn't hear you. Could you speak up a bit?  
A: Sure. I said, where do you come from?  
B: I don't understand. Can you speak more slowly?  
A: All right. Where...are...you...from?  
B: I still can't follow you. Can you rephrase the question?  
A: Where is your hometown?  
B: Oh...This city is my home. I'm from here.  
A: Can you repeat that?  
B: I suppose. Please listen carefully. I'm home now.

DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

- 1. Why doesn't he understand the question the first time? The second time?

- 2. Is it usually necessary to apologize (say "I'm sorry") if you don't understand someone?
- 3. What does A want to know about B?
- 4. Which city is B's hometown?



CAN YOU DO IT?

- 1. What can you say to a person if you don't understand them?
- 2. How can you ask someone to speak more loudly?
- 3. How can you ask someone not to speak so fast?
- 4. How can you ask someone to express themselves in a different way (for example, with smaller or different words)?
- 5. What are some ways to ask people to repeat themselves?
- 6. How can you tell someone to pay close attention to what you say?

Lesson 17: Used to... (A, B) [1:36]



A: Didn't you use to live in China?  
B: Yeah, I used to, but not any more.  
A: Are you used to western food now?  
B: Almost. I thought it was strange at first, but I guess I'm used to it.  
A: They don't use knives and forks to eat there, do they?  
B: No, usually in China, Japan, Korea, and other East Asian countries, chopsticks are used to eat.  
A: And all of them eat rice for every meal?  
B: They used to, and many still do, but there's a lot more to eat than rice nowadays.  
A: That would be hard to get used to, rice with every meal.  
B: Well, with time, one can grow accustomed to most anything.

DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

- 1. Where did B use to live? Does he still live there?
- 2. Is B used to western food now? Do you think it was difficult for him to get used to it?
- 3. What kind of utensils (kitchen tools) are used to eat in most of East Asia?
- 4. Do people in East Asia eat nothing but rice for every meal?
- 5. What does B think is the most important part of getting used to something new?

CAN YOU DO IT?

- 1. Did you use to live somewhere else? If so, where? Are you used to living here now? What is/was the most difficult part to get used to?
- 2. What did you use to do when you were a kid? (Answer with something you no longer do!)
- 3. What did Myanmar/Zimbabwe/New York/Istanbul/Vietnam use to be called?
- 4. Do you think you could grow accustomed to life in the USA? What would be the most difficult part?
- 5. What kind of transportation do most Americans use to "get around"?
- 6. When are you accustomed to waking up/going to sleep/eating meals?



A: I think English is very easy.  
 B: Maybe for you, but I don't think so. I think it's hard.  
 A: What makes you say that? It's the easiest subject in school.  
 B: I don't see it that way. I think you're wrong. Most students do very poorly in English.  
 A: I disagree. If a student does poorly in English, he or she is just a poor student.  
 B: How can you say that?! You know many good students just don't get English or don't want to study it!  
 A: And that means they're not really good students.  
 B: So you think all good students must be able to study English well? That's a very strange opinion, and I can't agree with it.  
 A: Maybe we should just agree to disagree.

### DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

1. What do A and B disagree about?
2. Why do they disagree? Do they understand one another's opinions well?
3. In A's opinion, what must a student be able to do to be a "good student"?
4. What does it mean to "agree to disagree"?
5. Why might A think English is easy while B thinks it is hard?



### CAN YOU DO IT?

1. Whose opinion do you think is right? Why? Do your classmates and teacher agree with you?
2. Do you think all good students must be willing and able to study any subject? (Can a student not study English well and still be a good student?)
3. Do you think most students do not study English well?
4. Do you think there are *right* and *wrong* answers to these questions, or can you understand the reasons why others disagree with you? Does it just depend on who a person is and what they have experienced?
5. Do you agree with your friends about most things?

### Lesson 19: Disagreeing 1 (A, B) [1:12]



A: Nice day, isn't it?  
 B: What makes you say this? I don't think it's so nice.  
 A: Well, it's sunny, and who doesn't like a bright, sunny day?  
 B: I don't see it that way. Today is too hot!  
 A: Too hot? Gimme a break! It's perfect out here!  
 B: Ha! You've got to be joking. I'd take a cool, rainy day any time over this.  
 A: I don't follow your logic. In my book, rain means staying inside and being bored.  
 B: On the contrary, I don't mind the rain because the temperature is more comfortable.  
 A: If you say so, but I'm gonna go out and enjoy the sun on the beach. Wanna come?  
 B: I'll take a rain check.

### DID YOU UNDERSTAND?

1. What do A (she) and B (he) disagree about?
2. What kinds of days do she and he like?
3. Why doesn't he like the weather?
4. Does she think it is too hot? What kind of weather does she think is "perfect"?
5. What does he think is most important in making a good day: lots of sun or comfortable temperatures?
6. Where will she go to enjoy the sun? Will he go with her?
7. What is a "rain check"?
8. Why does she say, "Gimme a break!" and he respond, "You've got to be joking."?

### CAN YOU DO IT?

1. What is the most important part of "nice" weather for you? Do your classmates and teacher agree with you?
2. Do you think rain (or snow) always makes the weather "bad"?
3. In your book, which month has the best weather?
4. Have you ever taken a rain check on something? If so, what?
5. Besides saying "I disagree", what are some other ways to express this meaning?

### Lesson 20: Disagreeing 2 (A, B) [2:08]



A: How much do you want for that bicycle?  
 B: \$200.  
 A: Yeah right! Look at the thing—it's old and broken! I'll give you 20.  
 B: No can do. It's a classic, and the price is \$200. Take it or leave it.  
 A: You call *that* a classic? It's a piece of junk! You've gotta come down a little.  
 B: Not a chance. That goes against every bone in my body. It's worth \$500, you know.  
 A: You wish! That's crazy talk. There's no way *anyone* would give more than \$100 for that thing.  
 B: I've said my piece. If you won't listen to reason, get lost!  
 A: All right, how about \$50? That's my final offer.  
 B: You can take your lousy money and buy yourself a piggy-back ride. No sale!





**DID YOU UNDERSTAND?**

- 1. What do A and B disagree about? Who is buying, and who is selling? What is being sold?
- 2. Why does A think the price should be lower? Why does B think the price is right and won't "come down"?
- 3. If something "goes against every bone in one's body" is one likely to agree?
- 4. How much is A willing to pay for the bicycle? Does he raise his price? Why/why not? Does B lower his price? Why/why not?
- 5. Does A agree that it is a classic bicycle? How can you tell?
- 6. What does B think of A's final offer? Does he sell him the bike?
- 7. Is this a friendly conversation or not? How can you tell?
- 8. Is the bicycle new or used? Is it common to haggle over new products (argue about the price of things) in the USA?
- 9. What is a piggy-back ride? Will it get A where he wants to go?

**CAN YOU DO IT?**

- 1. When you want to buy something, do you usually agree to the first price a seller asks, or do you haggle? Why?
- 2. What are some good ways to get a lower price on something you really want? (What can you say and do?)
- 3. What things do you argue the price of with the seller? What things do you just buy without arguing?
- 4. How much do you want for your...? (Teacher offers to buy a student's personal item for a ridiculous price. Suggested phrase to be introduced: it's not for sale.)
- 5. How much money would you sell your \_\_\_\_ (cel phone, computer, brother/sister) for? Do you think anyone would buy it?



**Lesson 21: What Did She Say? (Statement, Q, A) [2:24]**

- Statement 1: I like cats and dogs.  
Q: What did she say?  
A: She said she likes cats and dogs.
- Statement 2: I prefer to speak English.  
Q: What did she say?  
A: She said she prefers to speak English.
- Statement 3: I come from the USA.  
Q: What did she say?  
A: She said she comes from the USA.
- Statement 4: Would you mind helping me?  
Q: What did she ask me to do?  
A: She asked you if you would mind helping her.
- Statement 5: Would you please let me help?  
Q: What did she ask?  
A: She asked you to let her help you.
- Statement 6: You should let me help you.  
Q: What did she tell me to do?  
A: She told you to let her help you.
- Statement 7: Shut up!  
Q: What did she tell me to do?  
A: She told you to shut up.



**DID YOU UNDERSTAND?**

- 1. What does it mean to tell someone to "shut up"? Is it polite to say this? What are some more respectful ways to ask or tell someone to do this?

**CAN YOU DO IT?** (Two or three people can participate in this practice exercise. The teacher can ask one student a question or ask/tell him/her to do or say something. The teacher then asks another student what s/he said, in the form above. Pay close attention to the changing between first, second, and third person pronouns and verbs!)

Questions which elicit tricky responses: Where do you live? What do you like to do in your free time? How many brothers and sisters do you have? Etc.

Tasks (ask or tell someone to do them): Erase the white/blackboard, make me dinner, do my laundry, give me your pen, cut your hair, put a jacket on, stand up/sit down, etc.

