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UNIT

Bridge cultural gaps

Set the scene

As the world becomes more interconnected and our society becomes more culturally diverse, it is getting increasingly important to understand how people from different cultures act, communicate, and perceive the world around them. Communication across cultures is more than the mere exchange of words. It involves systems of beliefs, values, customs, morals, etc. It may occur through language; it may also take place through music, literature, dance, visual arts, etc.

Learning objectives

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- talk about similarities and differences between cultures and discuss how to better understand cultural diversity and respond accordingly;
- use sensory details and figurative language to describe things;
- communicate more effectively and appropriately with people from other cultural backgrounds.



A virtuous man seeks harmony but not unanimity;
a petty man seeks unanimity but not harmony.

— *The Analects*



Reading 1

The king of *renao* P107

Reading 2

The soothing British ritual of tea time P117

Unit project

An international cultural fair P124

Get ready to read



Video clip

NEW WORDS

exchange *n.* 互访;
交流

Bulgaria 保加利亚

Nigeria 尼日利亚

daunting *a.* 使人气
馁的

welfare *n.* 福利; 福祉

transition *n.* 过渡;
转变

transform *vt.* 使改变

Watch for information

In this video clip, five students from five different continents describe the culture shock they experienced when they studied abroad. Watch the video clip and check (✓) the statements that describe how they felt or what they did in each stage.

Stages of culture shock	Statements
Honeymoon	<input type="checkbox"/> — was excited to see the architecture, the culture, and the people <input type="checkbox"/> — found everybody around very helpful <input type="checkbox"/> — enjoyed the local food <input type="checkbox"/> — found in real life what you had once seen in the movies <input type="checkbox"/> — took pictures of everything and sent them to family and friends
Frustration	<input type="checkbox"/> — felt homesick, missing friends and family <input type="checkbox"/> — had some difficulty understanding the language <input type="checkbox"/> — questioned the decision to move to this place <input type="checkbox"/> — missed food in the home country <input type="checkbox"/> — was confused about the direction and traffic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> — found it hard to get involved in local communities <input type="checkbox"/> — found life very busy
Adjustment	<input type="checkbox"/> — started cooking a lot at home <input type="checkbox"/> — talked to the welfare advisors <input type="checkbox"/> — learned that other people may also experience culture shock <input type="checkbox"/> — decorated the room to make it more homelike and comfortable <input type="checkbox"/> — joined some clubs <input type="checkbox"/> — took a language class <input type="checkbox"/> — realized that it took time to adjust to a new environment
Acceptance	<input type="checkbox"/> — felt a lot more comfortable in the new culture <input type="checkbox"/> — started going out more and socializing with other people <input type="checkbox"/> — adjusted to the weather, the food, and the language <input type="checkbox"/> — made many friends <input type="checkbox"/> — learned a lot inside the classroom and about oneself <input type="checkbox"/> — wanted to stay in the country as long as possible <input type="checkbox"/> — understood and appreciated cultural differences

Watch and discuss

In addition to what has been mentioned in the video clip, what other things do you think people can do to quickly adapt to life in a new environment?

The king of rehao

- 1 For the past five years, I've lived about a mile north of the Forbidden City, in an apartment building off a tiny alley in downtown Beijing. The capital, like most Chinese cities nowadays, has been changing fast, but the layout of my neighborhood has remained more or less the same for centuries.
- 2 Ancient as it may be, the neighborhood is definitely not a place for peace and quiet. It is a world of noise and excitement, a lively and spirited affair.
- 3 I live in a modern three-story¹ building, but it's surrounded by the single-story¹ houses of brick, wood, and tile that are characteristic of hutong². These structures stand behind walls of gray brick, and often a visitor to old Beijing is impressed by the sense of division: wall after wall, gray brick upon gray brick. But a hutong neighborhood is most distinguished by connections and movement. In a hutong, much is communal, including the alley itself. Even in winter, residents bundle up and sit along the alley, chatting with their neighbors.
- 4 The sounds of daily life are completely different from what a Westerner like me would expect back in my home country. Usually I'm awake by dawn, and from my desk I hear residents chatting and laughing loudly as they make their way to the little exercise station next to my building. Outdoor exercise stations can be found almost everywhere around the city. But I guess nobody appreciates these spots more than hutong residents. At dawn and dusk, they are especially busy — you can hear groups of elderly people dancing, singing, playing chess, and exchanging information about their neighbors. They literally know everybody around! Once a cheerful old lady passed on the business card of a foreigner who had been trying to track me down. Another time, she told me that the local matchmaker had someone in mind for me. The exercise stations seem to be perfect for the ultimate hutong sport: hanging around in the street with the neighbors.
- 5 By mid-morning, the venders are out. These street venders pass through regularly, because the hutong is too small for supermarkets. They pedal through the alley, each announcing his product with a trademark cry. The beer woman is the loudest, singing out again and again,

Notes

- 1 In "three-story" and "single-story," "story" (*BrE storey*) means "a floor or level of a building."
- 2 The word "hutong" refers to a type of narrow alley commonly found in northern Chinese cities, especially Beijing.



“Maaaaaiiii piijijiuuuuuu!” — “Buuuuyyyy beeeeeeeeer!” It can be **distracting**, but over the years I’ve learned to appreciate the music in the calls. The rice man’s voice is **higher-pitched**; the fruit dealer occupies the lower registers. The knife sharpener provides a steady **click-clack** of metal plates. The sounds are **soothing**, a reminder that even if I never left my house again life would be sustainable.

- 6 It was not until recently that I finally learned from my neighbor the word that can precisely describe my life here in Beijing — *renao*, which essentially means lively and **bustling** with excitement. It is part of the Beijing **psyche**, and it is what **greet**s you every day here, just as much as people saying “Nihao (Hello)” to you does. *Renao* is everywhere in the city. It rides the subways and roads, creates a strong sense of community spirit among *hutong* residents, and brings public parks to life.
- 7 For me, an American who comes from a country where quietness in public places and the concept of a personal space **bubble**³ are **emphasized**, all the people and all their *renao* were a challenge which I had to meet and adapt to at first. But now it has become the main aspect of my time in the city, and if I leave I will truly miss it the most.
- 8 *Renao* is what makes Beijing what it is, more than just a huge, ancient city. It makes Beijing a city in which you feel alive and part of something bigger.
- 9 For many people who have lived here over the past years and keep coming back, it is this *renao* — this energy and **dynamism** and spirit — that keeps pulling them back.
- 10 Beijing is the king of *renao*.

Notes

- 3 Here “a personal space bubble” is an imaginary bubble around a person to represent the comfortable distance between the person and other people. Each person has varying comfort levels of personal space.
-



Read and understand

Global understanding

Read the passage and check (✓) the statements that match the author's description of Beijing as the king of *renao*.

- 1. Supermarkets in the *hutong* are often crowded with shoppers.
- 2. *Hutong* residents chat with their neighbors along the alley even in cold winters.
- 3. Street vendors pass through the *hutong* regularly, each with their own distinctive calls.
- 4. Elderly people dance, sing, and play chess at the exercise stations.
- 5. Elderly people know literally everybody around.
- 6. *Hutong* residents love to play sports together with their neighbors.



Detailed understanding

Read the passage again and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- ___ 1. The layout of the *hutong* neighborhood where the author lives dates back to centuries ago.
- ___ 2. The author lives in a traditional old house that is commonly found in a *hutong*.
- ___ 3. A visitor to old Beijing is often impressed by the fact that the communal space is divided into different sections.
- ___ 4. An old lady tried to arrange a date between the author and a foreigner who had been trying to find him.
- ___ 5. The calls of the vendors are comforting in that they remind the author that he could survive without even leaving his house.
- ___ 6. In the home country of the author, people are expected to keep a polite distance from others.

Read and think

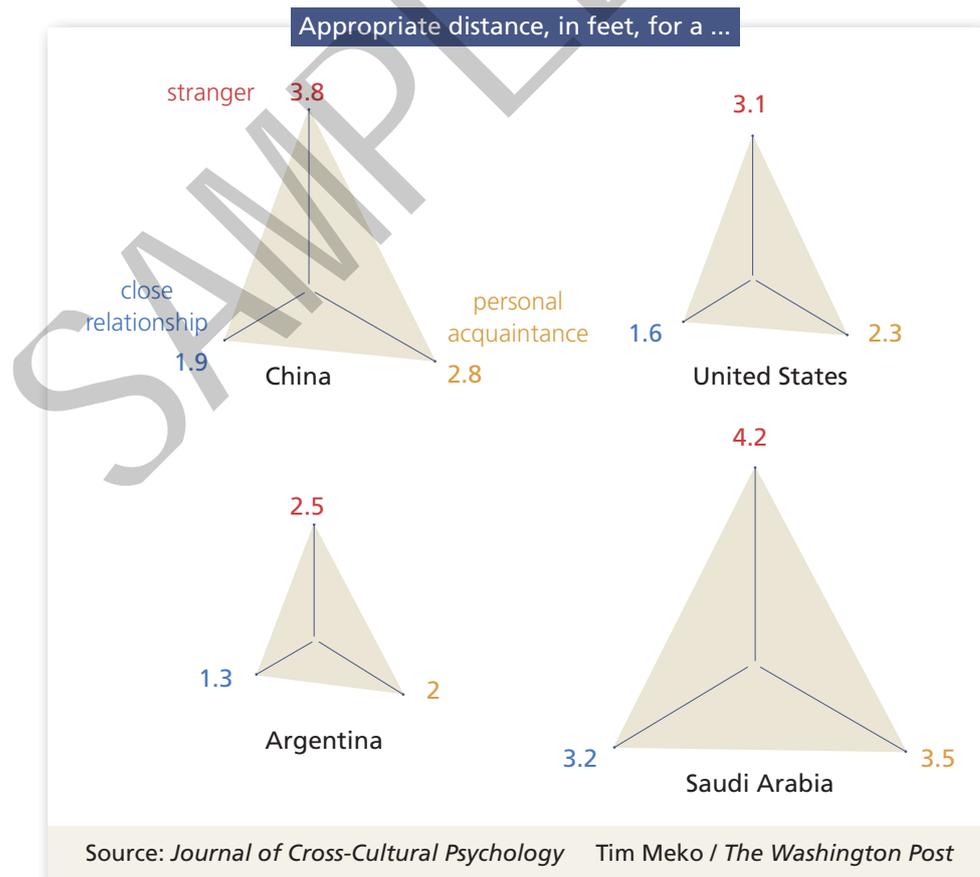
Change of the author's attitude

Step 1 Work in pairs and discuss how the author has changed his attitude toward *renao* in Beijing. Find clues in the passage to support your idea.

Step 2 What do you think has led to the change in the author's attitude?

Personal space bubble: How close is too close?

Step 1 In the passage, the author states that “the concept of a personal space bubble” is emphasized in the US and implies that the concept may not be strongly emphasized in China. Look at the diagrams below. Does the description of personal space in China and the US correspond to what the author mentions in the passage? Give evidence to justify your answer.



Step 2 In multicultural situations, misunderstandings may arise because the size of a personal space bubble varies across cultures. Work in groups and make suggestions to people who are going to travel in a foreign country with a very different concept of personal space.

Read and practice

Word translation

Complete the sentences by translating the Chinese in brackets into English.

1. The company hopes to see a(n) _____ (稳步的) increase in car sales this year.
2. I'm _____ (肯定地) not going to Ben's party tonight if I'm the only girl invited.
3. It is difficult to know _____ (准确地) how much impact the changes will have.
4. The couple behind us kept talking during the movie, which was very _____ (使人分心的).
5. To qualify for the job, you'll need a variety of skills, _____ (包括……在内) leadership and communication skills.
6. The program of _____ (户外的) activities includes skiing, climbing, and hiking.
7. We will attempt to examine the _____ (活力) of Chinese culture through works of art.
8. Eyes shaded by his _____ (标志性的) red cap, the old man sat there quietly.

Expressions

Complete the sentences with suitable expressions from the box. Change the form if necessary.

adapt to	bundle up	exchange information	hang around with
make one's way	more or less	pass on	track down

1. After living in a house with a garden, it's hard to _____ living in a flat.
2. A number of activities are organized during the school year for parents and teachers to _____ about children's progress.
3. We both think that the team is _____ the same as it was last season.
4. I finally managed to _____ the book you wanted in a shop near the station.
5. Make sure that you all _____ to fight off cold during the winter.
6. I used to _____ Chelsea a lot more before she started dating Drew.
7. After I finished, I _____ the history book to my 12-year-old daughter.
8. Will passengers for Paris please _____ to Platform 6?

Coherence and cohesion

Match sentences 1-6 with sentences A-F. Use the key words in bold to help you.

1. It's reported that there are as many as 20,000 street **venders** in New York City.

2. Sit back, close your eyes, and listen to a piece of **soothing** music.

3. Each floor in this apartment building has a **communal** kitchen for 8 to 15 people.

4. Davis is my new co-worker who seems to be a very **cheerful** man.

5. When you write a cover letter, the **layout** of your letter is very important.

6. When **dawn** broke, we were still 10 miles from the hospital.

A This will surely help you relax and put you to sleep very fast.

B Pay attention to the way the words are set up on the page, including headings, spacing, and so on.

C They work long hours, asking for nothing more than a chance to sell their goods on the public sidewalk.

D At dinner time, all the residents make their own meals in this shared space.

E But we got there very soon since we could see the road more clearly in daylight.

F He makes everyone around him happy by telling jokes whenever he has the opportunity.

Banked cloze

Complete the passage with suitable words from the word bank. You may not use any of the words more than once.

ancient	appreciate	challenge	characteristic	connections
distinguish	emphasized	essentially	exchanging	impressed
layout	neighborhood	precisely	reflecting	residents

Sometimes it is easy to become obsessed with your own beliefs and difficult to break the habits of a lifetime. You may find it is a(n) 1) _____ to accept different ways of life in other cultures. However, close-mindedness is not helpful for anyone, because to accept and respect other cultures is 2) _____ all about keeping an open mind to different ways of life. One of the most important ways to learn to become respectful of other cultures is to spend some time 3) _____ on your own beliefs. Becoming more self-aware can help you realize new things about your own culture. This, in turn, can help you 4) _____ the values and customs that 5) _____ one culture from another. You can also try to expand your knowledge about other cultures. You can learn by reading books about other cultures. A more effective way, however, is to place yourself in a(n) 6) _____ where you will be around people from a different culture. Take time to talk to people. Listening to their stories and experiences is a great way to form 7) _____ with a new culture. Be willing to try things that are 8) _____ of a particular culture. For example, when you travel in China, try the local food. I believe you will be greatly 9) _____ by its appearance, aroma, and taste, the three elements which are greatly 10) _____ in Chinese cuisine.

Read and translate

Translate the sentences into English.

1. 你认为现代中国家庭里是否还存在明显的夫妻分工？(division)
2. 越来越多的人对于中医的可持续健康发展表现出强烈的兴趣。(sustainable)
3. 在中餐中，菜肴都装在公用的盘子或碗里，吃饭时在座的所有人一起分享。(communal)
4. 对于中国人来说，尊敬和照顾老人是一种传统美德，应该代代传承。(elderly people)
5. 重视亲密的家庭关系与和谐的邻里关系是中国传统文化的特点。(characteristic of)
6. 在巴黎旅游时，我通常没有明确的目的地，只是单纯地享受街头闲逛。(have ... in mind)

Read and write

Give a vivid description

Step**1**

Descriptive writing is about describing a person, place, or thing in such a way that a picture is formed in the reader's mind. Read Paragraphs 2 to 6 again and discuss in pairs how the author tries to give a vivid description of life in a *hutong*. Use examples to support your idea. During your discussion, you may refer to the following techniques for descriptive writing.

- Have a clear focus. The writer needs to have a very clear focus on the subject being described. The goal is to create a single dominant impression, a central theme or idea to which all the details relate.
- Appeal to the senses. When describing, it is important that the writer engage the reader fully by including sensory details from the five senses of smell, taste, hearing, sight, and touch.
- Use figurative language. Good descriptive writing often makes use of figurative language such as analogy, personification, simile, and metaphor to help paint a picture in the reader's mind.
- Be specific. The writer needs to include very specific and concrete details to allow the reader to form an impression of what is being described.

Step**2**

In the passage, the author states that "*Renao* is everywhere in the city." Could you describe, in no less than 80 words, a place where you could feel this energy and liveliness, like a restaurant, a supermarket, etc.? Make sure that your description is clearly focused, includes sensory and specific details, and uses figurative language effectively.



Expressions for reference:

General impression

- bustling / alive with noise and activity
- inject the city / restaurant / market with life and buzz

Hearing

- talk at the top of one's voice
- lots of chat and laughter
- laughter surges with the clatter of dishes
- yell at each other about mixed-up orders

Smell

- a faint smell of seafood in the air
- mixed exotic smells
- a profusion of smells permeates (弥漫于) the market

Sight

- rush about with trays of food
- overwhelmed by the crowds of shoppers / tourists / diners
- shelves piled high with products
- always on the move

Taste

- gently melt in one's mouth
- taste its warm silkiness as it hits your tongue
- bursting with flavor in every bite

Touch

- the greasy desks and chairs
- people jostle (推搡) each other in a crowd
- floor beaten hard by countless feet

Step

3

Exchange writing with your partner and ask for advice to make your description more vivid.



Get ready to read



Video clip

NEW WORDS

- Brit** *n.* 英国人
- cuppa** *n.* 一杯茶
- steep** *v.* 浸泡(食物)
- conundrum** *n.* 难题
- panic** *v.* (使)惊慌
- brew** *vt.* 泡, 沏(茶)
n. 泡好的茶
- herbal tea** 草本茶
- Earl Grey** (格雷)
伯爵茶
- smitten** *a.* 迷恋…的
- chap** *n.* 家伙
- dunk** *v.* 浸—浸(食物)
- digestive** *a.* 消化的
- off-putting** *a.* 令人讨厌的
- crumble** *v.* (使)破碎

Watch for information

Watch a video clip to learn how to make a perfect cup of tea in the British way. Then complete the table with information from the video clip.

How to make a perfect cup of tea the British way

The tea-making process

- Add 1) _____ water from an electric kettle
- Steep the tea for around 2) _____ minutes
- Add milk:
 - 3) _____ the water if the tea is made in a cup
 - 4) _____ the water if the tea is made in a pot

Choices about tea

- Types of tea:
Green tea, herbal tea, Earl Grey, or 5) _____, the most popular tea in the UK
- Flavors of tea:
 - Builder's brew: 6) _____ tea with milk and sugar
 - White-without: tea with milk but no 7) _____
- Loose-leaf vs 8) _____?

Dunking

- It refers to dipping a 9) _____ cookie into tea.
- The best dunking biscuit is a 10) _____ biscuit.



Watch and discuss

Work in groups and compare the tea culture in the UK with that in China. If you're going to live in Britain for a period of time, will you get used to the British tea culture? Why or why not?

The soothing British ritual of tea time



- 1 When I started working in London four years ago, I **repeatedly** made a serious mistake: Whenever a **colleague** would offer me a cup of tea, I'd politely **decline**. To me, a **mug** of hot tea with milk tasted okay, but it was more the kind of thing you use to **accompany** something actually delicious, like cake.
- 2 But this awkward exchange kept happening. It happened at work more than four times a day. The offers from my English colleagues began to drive me a little crazy, and I could tell that my repeated **refusal** was annoying them, as well. That's because in Britain, I soon learned, rejecting a cup of tea is like rejecting a **gesture** of friendship.
- 3 I'd always considered tea a relatively simple **beverage**. The British, of course, could not disagree more¹. An individual's particular tea **preference** is a **lifelong** commitment. Sharp lines² are drawn. "How do you take your tea?" is perhaps the most loaded³ question in the British language. Milk or no milk? Sugar or no sugar? Unless you're ready for a war, don't even think about asking whether the milk should

Notes

- 1 The expression "could not disagree more" or "cannot disagree more" means "disagree completely, making it impossible to disagree to a greater extent." A similar expression is "couldn't / cannot agree more," which means "totally agree."
e.g. I cannot disagree more that you passed the exam simply because you were lucky.
 - 2 Here the word "line" is used in a figurative sense to mean "the point at which one type of thing can be considered to be sth. else or at which it becomes a particular thing."
e.g. Sometimes he found it hard to draw the line between work and pleasure.
 - 3 A "loaded" word, statement, etc. has more meanings than you first realize and is intended to influence the way you think.
-



be added before or after the water because you'll be dragged into a **bitter** dispute drawn along age-old⁴ lines of class and region.

- 4 The true importance of the tea ritual didn't fully hit home for me until one visit to my husband's parents in the north of England. My British **in-laws**⁵ are the most polite, kind, and **hospitable** people in the entire world. They tried their best to make me feel welcome. I never heard them say a word against me. That was, until three years ago, on Christmas Day, when I first made them tea.
- 5 On that day, after being offered tea several times, I saw that it was time for the final cup of the day. Being the **dutiful** daughter-in-law that I am, I took it upon myself to prepare this round. I boiled the kettle, **stewed** the teabags, added the milk, and **triumphantly** placed two cups in front of my in-laws.
- 6 They both **glanced** at their mugs and hesitated.
- 7 "Bit **milky**, huh?" my mother-in-law said.
- 8 Her words went straight through my heart like a **dagger**. "Bit milky" is the American way of saying "This is the worst thing I've ever tasted." I was very embarrassed.

Notes

- 4 Here "age-old" is an adjective, meaning "having existed for a very long time."
e.g. *The age-old hatred between the two families has never been dealt with.*
- 5 Here "in-laws" refer to the parents of the author's husband. An in-law is a relative by marriage.
e.g. *son-in-law*: 女婿 / *daughter-in-law*: 儿媳 / *sister-in-law*: 配偶的姐姐 (或妹妹); 嫂子; 弟媳等 / *brother-in-law*: 配偶的哥哥 (或弟弟); 姐夫; 妹夫等

- 9 I didn't make tea again for a year, which **basically** labeled me as an **outsider**, because drinking tea is part of British society at every level. Everyone from the men on building sites to the queen herself in Buckingham Palace drinks tea. Upper-class, middle-class, and working-class people are **united** in their love of this national beverage. It's a way of life and a **sacred** tradition, and one that carries over into the **workplace**, as I so discovered.
- 10 No meeting in Britain shall begin without someone "popping the kettle on." Don't even think about attempting to work on something **unpleasant** without making a **brew** first to help you through. A tough client call, a **tedious** data **entry** job, or a long presentation? Tea first, always.
- 11 Tea is such an **ingrained** part of work life in the UK that some offices have actual tea **trolleys**. Some kitchens even have a board on the wall where each employee has noted their personal tea preference, sometimes accompanied by an illustrated chart.
- 12 In an effort to really understand how much tea is being **consumed** on this island, I **polled** various British people on how many cups they drink daily. The most common answer was four. Even in summer. But why?
- 13 Yes, tea can be a gesture of kindness, but for many people, it's mostly a ritual of comfort. My friend who drinks seven cups a day said tea reminds her of her mom. For many British people, it seems tea wraps them in the memories of childhood and home.
- 14 In that case, maybe people who live in Britain should all embrace this tradition. The next time you're feeling blue⁶, just deal with it like the British: Boil the kettle and prepare tea for yourself, and maybe your colleagues. After a few years here, I've even discovered my own tea preference, which you're welcome to borrow: Stew for one minute, add some milk, and drink with a generous⁷ slice of cake while you escape the world for five minutes.

Notes

6 Here "blue" means "sad and without hope."

e.g. I've been feeling kind of blue.

7 Here "generous" is used to mean "larger or more than the usual size or amount."

e.g. There are generous discounts in the Christmas sales season.

Read and understand

Global understanding

Read the passage and match each part with its corresponding topic.

Part 1 (Paras. 1-2)	A The importance of the tea ritual for the British in their daily life and the workplace
Part 2 (Para. 3)	B The author's experience of rejecting offers of tea from her colleagues
Part 3 (Paras. 4-8)	C Reasons why British people love tea
Part 4 (Paras. 9-11)	D The complexity of the British tea culture
Part 5 (Paras. 12-13)	E The author's unpleasant experience of making tea for her British in-laws
Part 6 (Para. 14)	F Suggested attitude toward the British tea ritual

Detailed understanding

Read the passage again and check (✓) the statements that are true of the British tea ritual.

1. Tea can be offered as a gesture of friendship.
2. British people often disagree upon how tea should be made.
3. One's tea preference might change as they grow older.
4. Tea preferences are related to class and region.
5. Everyone, regardless of their class or social status, drinks tea.
6. Tea is an essential part of British people's working life.
7. Most British people drink seven cups of tea every day.
8. Tea brings back fond memories of childhood and home.



Read and think

Figure of speech

Step
1 Work in pairs and decide what figure of speech is used in each sentence.

1. Sharp lines are drawn.
2. Unless you're ready for a war, don't even think about asking whether the milk should be added before or after the water because you'll be dragged into a bitter dispute drawn along age-old lines of class and region.
3. My British in-laws are the most polite, kind, and hospitable people in the entire world.
4. Her words went straight through my heart like a dagger.
5. "Bit milky" is the American way of saying "This is the worst thing I've ever tasted."
6. Everyone from the men on building sites to the queen herself in Buckingham Palace drinks tea.

Step
2 Discuss what effects the author is trying to achieve by using these figures of speech.

Adapt to a new culture

Step
1 Read the last paragraph again. To what extent do you think the author has adapted to the British tea culture? Explain your answer.

Step
2 There is an old saying: "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." Do you agree with the saying? To what extent do you think individuals should give up their own customs and cultural values and conform to the values of a new culture?

Read and practice

Synonyms

Replace the italicized parts in the sentences with words or expressions from the box. Change the form if necessary.

be accompanied by	beverage	colleague	decline
dispute	glance	poll	soothing

- The *argument* over product quality is likely to be the main topic of tomorrow's meeting.
- If you hear about the job opening from a friend, relative, or *co-worker*, mention that to me.
- He closed his eyes and felt his muscles relax at the *comforting* sounds of the ocean.
- A security officer at the factory, who *refused* to give his name, said he had seen two men leave the building.
- The town has been famous from remote times for a *drink* called "white beer."
- Your passport application form should *come with* two recent photographs.
- Researchers *surveyed* 10,000 customers about the quality of products that they used.
- He *looked quickly* over his shoulder, and saw the man was coming toward him.

Word building

Complete the sentences with the proper form of the words given in brackets.

- Parents have a(n) _____ as to the school their child will attend. (prefer)
- We have _____ called for an official investigation into the affair. (repeat)
- Tom Campbell has been a loyal and _____ employee of this firm for 25 years. (duty)
- A lot of people think that drinking tea is good for health, but I totally _____. (agree)
- Phil and Jane argued the whole time, so it was a pretty _____ evening. (pleasant)
- His _____ to pay the fine got him into even more trouble. (refuse)
- Keyboards are input devices that allow the _____ of data and commands by simply pressing down the keys on them. (enter)
- My breakfast was a cup of weak, _____ coffee and a tasteless roll of bread. (milk)



Present a proposal

An international cultural fair

To help students learn about different cultures and promote cultural communication, your university is going to hold an international cultural fair, featuring one particular culture every year. The university is now recruiting students who will plan and organize the event. You and your friends would like to bid for the event by presenting an event proposal.

Step Choose a culture

1

Work in groups of five. Each group chooses a culture and decides on the specific aspects of the culture to be focused on. The following aspects are for your reference: music, theater, architecture, literature, traditions, festivals, cuisine, values ...

Step Decide on main activities

2

Have a further discussion to plan several main activities that can highlight the specific aspects of the culture you've chosen. The activities may include, but are not limited to, the following: performances, cultural booths, food tasting, films and videos, lectures, games, etc.

Step Prepare an event proposal

3

Summarize your ideas and write an event proposal to be presented to the university. The following outline may help you prepare your proposal.

Name of event: _____	
Venue and time of event: _____	
Proposed by: _____	
Event description:	

Experience and qualifications of the management team:	

Main activities and proposed budget:	
List of activities	Budget
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Step Present your event proposal

4

Present your event proposal to the whole class and invite the audience to ask questions and make comments at the end of your presentation.

Reading 1

New words

* **alley** /'æli/ *n.* [C]

(also **alleyway**) a narrow street between or behind buildings, not usually used by cars 小巷; 胡同
e.g. A narrow alley led up between the houses to the main street.

* **layout** /'leɪaʊt/ *n.* [C]

the way in which the parts of sth. such as the page of a book, a garden, or a building are arranged 布局; 布置; 设计; 安排
e.g. All the flats in the building have the same layout.

* **neighborhood** /'neɪbə,hʊd/ *n.* [C]

(BrE **neighbourhood**) a district or an area of a town 街区; 城区
e.g. Jessica and Jason grew up in the same neighborhood of Boston.

* **excitement** /ɪk'saɪtmənt/ *n.* [U]

the state of feeling excited 激动; 兴奋; 刺激
e.g. The children were filled with excitement at the thought of visiting Disneyland.

spirited /'spɪrɪtɪd/ *a.*

having energy and determination 精神饱满的; 生气勃勃的; 有决心的
e.g. At the end of the day, the usually cheerful and spirited girl was worn out.

♦ **tile** /taɪl/ *n.* [C]

(铺屋顶的)瓦, 瓦片

* **characteristic** /,kærɪktə'rɪstɪk/ *a.*

(~ of) very typical of a particular thing or of sb.'s character 典型的; 独特的
e.g. Personality is often defined as an individual's characteristic way of thinking, feeling, and behaving.

* **impress** /ɪm'pres/ *vt.*

make sb. feel admiration and respect 使钦佩; 使留下深刻印象
e.g. None of the people I've interviewed so far has impressed me.

* **distinguish** /dɪ'stɪŋɡwɪʃ/

vt. be the thing that makes sb. / sth. different or special 使有区别; 使有特色

e.g. The factor that distinguishes this company from its competitors is customer service.

v. recognize and understand the difference between two or more things or people 区分; 辨别

e.g. At what age are children able to distinguish between right and wrong?

* **connection** /kə'nekʃn/ *n.* [C]

the way in which two facts, ideas, events, people, etc. are related to each other, and one is affected or caused by the other 联系; 关联

e.g. There is a connection between pollution and the death of trees.

* **commune** /'kɒmjʊ:n/ *n.* [C]

a group of people who live together and who share the work and their possessions 群居团体; 社区
e.g. She went to California and joined a commune.

communal /'kɒmjʊnl; kə'mju:nl/ *a.*

shared by a group of people or animals, esp. a group who live together (为同一群体所)共有的, 共用的, 共享的

e.g. As a student he tried communal living for a few years.

* **including** /ɪn'klu:dɪŋ/ *prep.*

having sth. as part of a group or set 包括...在内

e.g. I've got three days' holiday including New Year's Day.

* **Westerner** /'westənə/ *n.* [C]

sb. from the western part of the world 西方人; 西洋人; 欧美人

e.g. What is difficult for Westerners to understand is the real meaning of these cultural customs.

* **dawn** /dɔ:n/ *n.* [C, U]

the time at the beginning of the day when light first appears 黎明; 破晓

e.g. I don't think he went to sleep until dawn.

* **outdoor** /,aʊt'dɔ:z/ *a.*

(only before noun) existing, happening, or used outside, not inside a building (在)户外的; 用于户外的

e.g. I love outdoor activities such as walking and camping.

* **cheerful** /'tʃɪəfl/ *a.*

happy, or behaving in a way that shows you are happy 高兴的; 兴高采烈的

e.g. Before the accident he had been cheerful and confident.

matchmaker /'mætʃ,meɪkə/ *n.* [C]

sb. who tries to find a suitable partner for sb. else to marry 媒人

e.g. Ours, after all, was not a marriage arranged by a matchmaker or by our parents.

* **vender** /'vendə/ *n.* [C]

(BrE **vendor**) sb. who sells things, esp. on the street (尤指街上的) 小贩

e.g. He bought a copy from a newspaper vender.

♦ **pedal** /'pedl/ *v.*

(AmE) (~ up / along / down, etc.) ride a bicycle 骑 (自行车)

e.g. Andrew pedaled up the road toward the town center.

* **trademark** /'treɪd,mɑ:k/

a. of or being a distinctive, identifying feature or characteristic 特有的; 标志性的

e.g. She was about to burst into her trademark laughter when her mom silenced her.

n. [C] a special name, sign, or word that is marked on a product to show that it is made by a particular company, that cannot be used by any other company (公司某一产品的) 商标

e.g. The big letter "M" is McDonald's best-known trademark.

* **distract** /dɪ'strækt/ *vt.*

take sb's attention away from sth. by making them look at or listen to sth. else 分散 (注意力); 使分心

e.g. Try not to distract the other students.

distracting /dɪ'stræktɪŋ/ *a.*

preventing you from concentrating on sth. 分散注意力的; 使人分心的

e.g. I find it too distracting to work with the television on.

high-pitched /,haɪ 'pɪtʃt/ *a.*

(of sounds) very high (声音) 很高的; 尖厉的

e.g. I could hear high-pitched laughter coming from the girls' bedroom.

* **dealer** /'di:lə/ *n.* [C]

sb. who buys and sells a particular product 交易商; 贸易商

e.g. She bought the painting from a Swiss art dealer two months ago.

* **register** /'redʒɪstə/

n. [C] the range of musical notes that sb.'s voice or a musical instrument can reach (嗓音或乐器的) 音域, 声区, 音区

e.g. Singers have to learn how to sing in the upper register.

v. put sb.'s / sth.'s name on an official list 记录; 登记

e.g. How many students have registered for English classes this semester?

* **sharpen** /'ʃɑ:pən/ *v.*

make sth. have a sharper edge or point, or become sharper (使) 变锋利 (尖锐)

e.g. Anne sharpened her pencil and got out her homework.

sharpen /'ʃɑ:p(ə)nə/ *n.* [C]

a person or device that makes sth. sharp 削磨的人; 磨具; 削具

e.g. You can buy the best pencil sharpeners at low prices in our store.

clack /klæk/ *n.* [sing.]

the short loud sound of one hard object hitting against another 硬物撞击声; 咔嗒声; 啪嗒声

e.g. I heard the clack of high heels as she crossed the yard.

♦ **soothe** /su:ð/ *vt.*

make sb. feel calmer and less anxious, upset, or angry 抚慰; 安慰; 使平静

e.g. Lucia soothed the baby by rocking him in her arms.

soothing /'su:ðɪŋ/ *a.*

making you feel calm and less nervous, worried, or upset 抚慰的; 安慰的

e.g. My mother had a gentle, soothing voice.

* **reminder** /rɪ'maɪndə/ *n.* [C]

sth. that makes you notice, remember, or think about sth. 起提醒作用的事物

e.g. The town wanted to forget the war but the destroyed bridge was a painful reminder.

bustling /'bʌslɪŋ/ *a.*

(~ with) full of people moving about in a busy way 繁忙的; 熙熙攘攘的

e.g. The flower market was bustling with shoppers.

psyche /'saɪki/ *n.* [C, usu. sing.]

sb.'s mind, or their deepest feelings, which control their attitudes and behavior 心灵; 灵魂; 精神
e.g. *She knew, at some deep level of her psyche, that what she was doing was wrong.*

* **greet** /gri:t/ *vt.*

say hello to sb. or welcome them 问候; 迎接; 招呼
e.g. *She greeted each of the guests as they came through the door.*

* **bubble** /'bʌbl/ *n.* [C]

a ball of air or gas in liquid (液体中的) 气泡, 泡沫
e.g. *When water boils, bubbles rise to the surface.*

* **emphasize** /'emfə,saɪz/ *vt.*

give special importance to sth. 强调; 重视; 着重
e.g. *The report emphasizes the importance of improving safety standards.*

dynamism /'daɪnə,mɪz(ə)m/ *n.* [U]

energy and enthusiasm to make new things happen or to make things succeed 精力; 活力; 劲头
e.g. *People responded positively to Ruth's cheerfulness and dynamism.*

Phrases and expressions

more or less

almost 几乎
e.g. *This report says more or less the same thing as the previous one.*

bundle up

put warm clothes on sb. or yourself because it is cold (因寒冷) 给...穿上暖和的衣服
e.g. *You'll have to bundle up; it's cold outside.*

make one's way (to / toward sth.)

move or get somewhere 去; 前往; 到...地方去
e.g. *The team slowly made their way back to the base camp.*

pass on

give sth. to sb. else, esp. after receiving it or using it yourself 转交; (用后) 递给, 传给
e.g. *She said she'd pass the message on to the other students.*

track down

find sb. / sth. that is difficult to find by searching or looking for information in several different places

追踪到; 追查到

e.g. *The police have so far failed to track down the attacker.*

have sb. / sth. in mind

have an idea about who or what you want for a particular purpose 心里已有某人 / 某事物 (作为...的目标选项)
e.g. *Have you got any particular color in mind for the bedroom?*

hang around with

spend a lot of time with sb. 与...长时间待在一起
e.g. *The people I used to hang around with were much older than me.*

bring ... to life

make sb. / sth. lively or interesting (使) 变得生动; (使) 变得有趣
e.g. *With these pictures I hope to bring the room to life.*

Proper names

Forbidden /fə'brɪdn/ City 紫禁城 (中国明清两代的皇家宫殿)

Reading 2

New words

* **repeatedly** /rɪ'pi:tɪdli/ *ad.*

many times 再三地; 重复地
e.g. *Sam was repeatedly warned not to work so hard.*

* **colleague** /'kɒli:g/ *n.* [C]

sb. you work with — used esp. by professional people 同事; 同僚 (尤为专业人士所用)
e.g. *She discussed the idea with some of her colleagues.*

* **decline** /dɪ'klaɪn/

v. (*fml.*) refuse politely to accept or to do sth. 谢绝; 婉言拒绝
e.g. *The Prime Minister was asked for his opinion but he declined to comment.*

vi. decrease in quantity or importance 减少; 降低
e.g. *Spending on information technology has started to decline in recent years.*

n. [U, sing.] a decrease in the quality, quantity, or importance of sth. 下降; 减少; 消减; 衰落
e.g. *There has been a decline in the size of families.*

* **mug** /mʌg/ *n.* [C]

a tall cup used for drinking tea, coffee, etc. (喝茶、咖啡等用的有柄的) 大杯, 马克杯
e.g. *Jake had a quick breakfast and a mug of coffee in the morning.*

* **accompany** /ə'kʌmp(ə)ni/ *vt.*

1) happen or exist at the same time as sth. else 伴随
e.g. *The disease is accompanied by headache and fever.*
2) go somewhere with sb. 陪伴; 陪同
e.g. *Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult in these activities.*

* **refusal** /rɪ'fju:zəl/ *n.* [C, U]

an act of saying or showing that you will not do, give, or accept sth. 拒绝; 回绝
e.g. *His refusal to discuss the matter made me angry.*

* **gesture** /'dʒestʃəl/ *n.*

1) [C] sth. that you say or do, often sth. small, to show how you feel about sb. / sth. (表明态度的) 表示, 姿态
e.g. *They sent me some flowers as a gesture of goodwill.*
2) [C, U] a movement of part of your body, esp. your hands or head, to show what you mean or how you feel (表达意思或感觉的) 手势, 姿势
e.g. *Jim raised his hands in a despairing gesture.*

* **beverage** /'bev(ə)rɪdʒ/ *n.* [C]

(*fml.*) a hot or cold drink 饮料
e.g. *Beer is the most popular alcoholic beverage.*

* **preference** /'pref(ə)rəns/ *n.* [C, U]

a greater interest in or desire for sb. / sth. than sb. / sth. else 偏爱; 偏好
e.g. *Many people expressed a strong preference for the original plan.*

lifelong /'laɪf,lɒŋ/ *a.*

(*only before noun*) continuing or existing all through your life 终身的; 毕生的
e.g. *She first visited Ireland when she was 10, and developed a lifelong interest in the country.*

* **bitter** /'bɪtə/ *a.*

1) (of arguments, disagreements, etc.) very serious and unpleasant, with a lot of anger and hatred involved (争论、分歧等) 激烈而不愉快的, 充满愤怒与仇恨的
e.g. *The couple had a bitter quarrel over the division of labor.*

2) feeling angry, jealous, and upset because you think you have been treated unfairly 愤愤不平的; 充满怨恨的
e.g. *I feel bitter about his behavior.*

in-laws /'ɪnlɔ:z/ *n.* [pl.]

(*informal.*) your relatives by marriage, esp. the father and mother of your husband or wife 姻亲 (尤指公婆或岳父母)
e.g. *We lived with my in-laws until we had enough money to buy a house of our own.*

* **hospitable** /hə'spɪtəbl/ *a.*

friendly, welcoming, and generous to visitors 好客的; 殷勤的; 热情友好的
e.g. *The local people were very kind and hospitable.*

* **dutiful** /'dju:tɪfl/ *a.*

doing what you are expected to do and behaving in a loyal and obedient way 尽责的; 忠诚的; 顺从的; 恭敬的
e.g. *His dutiful secretary was always there to answer her boss' call when he needed her.*

stew /stju:/

v. cook sth. slowly, or allow sth. to cook slowly, in liquid in a closed dish 炖; 煨
e.g. *The meat needs to stew for two hours.*
n. [C, U] a dish of meat and vegetables cooked slowly in liquid in a container that has a lid 炖的菜; 煨的菜 (有肉和蔬菜)
e.g. *I'm making a stew for lunch.*

* **triumphantly** /traɪ'ʌmfəntli/ *ad.*

in a state of showing pleasure and pride because of a victory or success (因胜利或成功而) 洋洋得意地, 耀武扬威地
e.g. *"I've got a job," she announced triumphantly.*

* **glance** /glɑ:ns/ *vi.*

(~ at / up / down, etc.) quickly look at sb. / sth. 一瞥; 看一眼
e.g. *The man glanced nervously at his watch.*

★ **milky** /'mɪlki/ *a.*

containing a lot of milk 掺奶的; 多乳的
e.g. *Water, fruit juice, and hot milky drinks are offered on planes.*

dagger /'dæɡə/ *n.* [C]

a short pointed knife used as a weapon 匕首; 短剑

★ **basically** /'beɪsɪkli/ *ad.*

used when you are giving your opinion or stating what is important about a situation 总的来说; 从根本上
e.g. *Basically, we're looking for someone who can work three afternoons a week.*

★ **outsider** /aʊt'saɪdə/ *n.* [C]

a person who is not accepted as a member of a society, group, etc. 外人; 局外人
e.g. *I'm an outsider, the only foreign woman in the group.*

★ **unite** /ju:'naɪt/ *v.*

if different people or organizations unite, or if sth. unites them, they join together in order to achieve sth. (使)联合; (使)团结
e.g. *We will unite in fighting crime.*

united /ju:'naɪtɪd/ *a.*

(of people or groups) in agreement and working together (人或群体)和谐的, 一致的, 团结的
e.g. *We need to become a more united team.*

◆ **sacred** /'seɪkrɪd/ *a.*

1) very important or greatly respected 很重要的; 神圣的; 深受尊重的
e.g. *Few things were sacred to Henry, but local history was one of them.*
2) relating to a god or religion 上帝的; 神的; 宗教(性)的
e.g. *Certain animals were considered sacred.*

workplace /'wɜ:k,pleɪs/ *n.* [C]

the room, building, etc. where you work 工作场所
e.g. *How do you keep your personal problems out of the workplace?*

★ **pop** /pɒp/

vt. (*infml.*) quickly put sth. somewhere, usu. for a short time 迅速地放置
e.g. *She took out a piece of chewing gum (口香糖) and popped it in her mouth.*
vi. come suddenly or unexpectedly out of or away from sth. (突然或出人意料地) 蹦出, 离开, 脱落
e.g. *The top button popped off my shirt.*

★ **unpleasant** /ʌn'pleznt/ *a.*

not pleasant or enjoyable 使人不愉快的; 不合意的; 讨厌的
e.g. *Undercooked potatoes taste unpleasant and can be harmful.*

◆ **brew** /bru:/ *n.* [C]

(*esp. BrE*) an amount of tea made at one time (茶) 一次的冲泡量
e.g. *Nothing beats the taste of a fresh brew made from Carlisle Tea's fine quality loose-leaf teas.*

★ **tedious** /'ti:diəs/ *a.*

lasting or taking too long and not interesting 冗长的; 啰唆的; 单调乏味的; 令人厌烦的
e.g. *We had to listen to the tedious details of his presentation.*

★ **entry** /'entri/ *n.*

1) [U] the act of recording information in a computer, book, etc. 登记; 输入; 录入
e.g. *The program is used to describe the entry of data into the network.*
2) [C, U] the act of going into sth. 进入
e.g. *It was dark and their entry into the camp had gone unnoticed.*

ingrained /,ɪn'ɡreɪnd/ *a.*

(~ in) (of a habit, attitude, etc.) that has existed for a long time and is therefore difficult to change (习惯、态度等)根深蒂固的, 日久难改的
e.g. *The idea of doing our duty is deeply ingrained in most people.*

★ **trolley** /'trɒli/ *n.* [C]

(*AmE cart*) a small table on very small wheels, used for carrying or serving food or drink (运或送食物、饮料的)手推车, 台车

★ **consume** /kən'sju:m/ *vt.*

1) (*fml.*) eat or drink sth. 吃; 喝
e.g. *In order to survive, human beings need to consume food and water.*
2) use time, energy, goods, etc. 消耗; 消费
e.g. *A smaller car will consume less fuel.*

★ **poll** /pəʊl/ *vt.*

ask a lot of people the same questions in order to find out what they think about a subject 对...进行民意测验(调查)
e.g. *Over 50% of those polled were against the proposed military action.*

Phrases and expressions

drive sb. crazy / nuts / mad / insane

make sb. feel very annoyed 把某人逼疯

e.g. *Would you stop that humming? You're driving me crazy!*

hit / strike home

(of a remark, etc.) have a strong effect on sb., in a way that makes them realize what the true facts of a situation are (言语等) 使人豁然醒悟

e.g. *She saw the emotion in her father's face and knew her words had hit home.*

take it upon / on oneself (to do sth.)

(*fml.*) decide to do sth. without getting sb.'s permission or approval first 擅自做主做某事; 自作主张做某事

e.g. *He took it upon himself to personally thank each person at the meeting.*

carry over

continue to exist in a different situation (在不同情况下) 继续存在, 保持下去

e.g. *Attitudes learned at home carry over into the playground.*

pop on

(*BrE, spoken*) quickly turn on a piece of electrical equipment 迅速开启 (电器)

e.g. *Pop on the stove with a loose fitting lid to allow steam to escape.*

Proper names

Buckingham /'bʌkɪŋəm/ **Palace** 白金汉宫 (英国王室官邸, 位于伦敦)