



BRIDGES: INTERCULTURAL CONVERSATION 1

WELCOME TO THE ROUND TABLE

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| <p>1. WHO WE ARE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Westerner’s experience in Korea, personal gains from foreign travel, “Us” versus “Them” • Cultural bridges: Psychological dimensions of cultural and racial differences • Key concepts: <i>Generalization, prejudice, impression, stereotype, race, ethnic group</i>; use of metaphorical language. • Supplements—NPR on prejudice and stereotypes, pp. 155-158 | <p>1</p> |
| <p>2. IS EAST THE OPPOSITE OF WEST?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contrast of Korea and North America using cultural dichotomies • Cultural bridges: Understanding the big differences to explain the little differences. • Key concepts: <i>Authoritarian, authority-centered, individualism, community, collectivism, guilt, shame.</i> • Skills: Recognition of key concepts in context. Discussing with particular emphasis on the accurate use of terms. Application to real-life situations. • Supplements—individualism, collectivism, survey, modals, pp. 159-194 and 199 | <p>18</p> |
| <p>3. PERSONAL QUESTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several explanations for foreigners’ unfavorable reactions to personal questions • Cultural bridges: Examples of how cultural mores affect individual behavior on a subconscious level • Key concepts: <i>Defensive, mores, personal, privacy, sensitive, share, small talk</i> | <p>38</p> |

- Supplement: Short clip from *Groundhog Day*.
4. NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION 57
- Clashes in Western and Asian cultural norms for non-verbal behavior; “disgusting” habits, walking, personal space, privacy, and lining up.
 - Cultural bridges: Examples of how culture and habits affect non-verbal behavior on a sub-conscious level; awareness through participation in a culture game
 - Key concepts: *Behavior, nonverbal, taboo*.
5. DEFERENCE IN KOREA 77
- The successes and amusing blunders of Westerners attempting to deal with Korean hierarchies at home and in the workplace; verbal and nonverbal communication.
 - Cultural bridge: Stories of Westerners who are attempting to deal with often complex situations to create empathy for non-Koreans.
 - Key concepts: *Deference, politeness, respect*.
 - Supplement—forms of address, polite requests and suggestions, pp.200-206
6. FAMILY STRUCTURE 94
- Traditional and modern Korean families, patriarchy versus matriarchy from European American and African American life, the experience of a single mother.
 - Cultural Bridges: Students increase their awareness of the different possibilities in family structure and in the roles which can be assumed by family members.
 - Key concepts—*matriarchy, role*. Vocabulary--*discipline, extended family, housekeeper, housewife, lenient, nuclear family, patrilineal, role model, strict, unconditional love*.
 - Supplements—survey, pp. 195-198 and “Father Figure,” pp.207-224.
7. WORKING 113
- An American businessman’s blunders, special recognition, working hours, the influence of the military on company life in Korea, the vertical hierarchy, the merit system versus the seniority system, job assignments and horizontal interaction.
 - Cultural Bridges: Students increase their awareness of how a different corporate structure in East and West affects the working environment.
 - Key concepts: *hierarchy, merit, power distance, seniority*.
 - Supplement—NPR on younger bosses, older employees, pp. 227-228
8. WOMEN’S HISTORY 128
- The history of the women’s movement in the U.S. as related to possible developments in Korea. Aspects of the democratic process are also explained.
 - Cultural Bridges: Students increase their awareness of parallels between the changes in women’s status in the US and in Korea.
 - Key concepts--*accountability, constituent, democracy, equality, lobby, participation, republic*.
 - Supplement: *How We Got the Vote*, pp.229-243.
9. CANADIANS SPEAK 145
- Reading for a paper: Canadian cultural identity.