



Unit 6 Good and Bad Manners

Close Reading: **Eye Contact**

Pre-reading questions:

- ◆ Have you noticed how people from another culture observe different manners? Could you give one example?
- ◆ Is eye contact a sign of respect or disrespect in our culture?

- ◆ When an American is parking his bicycle, for example, and the bicycle accidentally falls over, what will the Chinese onlookers respond?
- ◆ In the dining room, when a foreigner drops a plate quite by accident and feels badly, what will the Chinese onlookers respond?

2. Language points

- 1. Mr. Hayes, the manager of a chain drugstore, **prides himself on** the way he runs his business. (lines 1-2)
- **take pride in sth/sb** to feel very pleased about something or someone you are closely connected with:
- **be proud to do sth.**
- **be proud of/for sth./sb**
- **be ashamed of/for sth./sb.**

- **pride** vt. [**pride oneself**] to value a skill or good quality that someone has:
- **pride oneself on/in sth**
- 他为自己懂得（会说）13种语言而自豪。
- He prided himself **on** knowing (**on** his ability to speak) thirteen languages.
- 他们为自己学问高深而感到自豪。
- They pride themselves **in** their superior learning.

2. Mr. Hayes **chatted with her** casually but noticed that, when he speaks to her, (line 6)

- **chat** verb [I] **-tt-** to talk to someone in a friendly informal way:
- She spends hours on the phone chatting **to/with** her friends.
- We were just chatting **about** what we did last weekend.
- Whenever I walk in, I always find the two of them chatting **away** (= talking eagerly). 闲聊

chat noun [C or U] a friendly, informal conversation:

- I had a chat with my boss today about a possible salary increase.
- It was the usual idle chat (= conversation about unimportant things).



3. He believed she was being disrespectful and **reprimanded** her **for** this. (lines 7-8)

- ❖ **reprimand** verb [T] FORMAL to express to someone your strong official disapproval of them:
- ❖ **reprimand sb. for sth.**
- ❖ She was **reprimanded** by her teacher **for** being late.
- ❖ She ~ed him **for** not conducting himself properly.

- 4. He then informed her that most Americans **interpret** lack of eye contact **as** disrespect and deviousness. **(lines 13-15)**
- The customers **translated** the lack of eye contact **as** a sign of disrespect, **(line 34)**
- ... their **misunderstanding** Asian and Latin American children's lack of eye contact **as** being disrespectful. **(line 37-38)**

- **interpret** (FIND MEANING) verb [T] to decide what the intended meaning of ~~something is:~~
- A jury should not **interpret** the silence of a defendant **as** a sign of guilt.
- It's difficult to **interpret a dream** (圆梦, 解梦) till now.
- interpretation **noun** [C or U]
- interpreter / interpretress **n.** 女翻译员
- interpretive (ALSO interpretative) **adjective**
- interpretable **adjective**

5. Ultimately, he **convinced** Isabella **to** try and change her habit, which she slowly did. (lines 15-16)

- **convince** verb [T] to persuade someone or make them certain:
- [+ to infinitive] **convince sb. to do sth**
- I hope this will convince you **to** change your mind.
- **convince sb. of sth.**
- He managed to convince the jury **of** his innocence.
- [+ (that)] It's useless trying to convince her (that) she doesn't need to lose any weight.

6. When speaking, they **tend to** constantly stare at the listener; ... (lines 26-27)

- **tend** (BE LIKELY) verb [I] to be likely to behave in a particular way or have a particular characteristic: 易于, 往往会; 倾向
- Plants ~ **to** die in hot weather if you don't water them.
- **(to, towards)**
- The young people today ~ **to** marry and bear children at late ages.

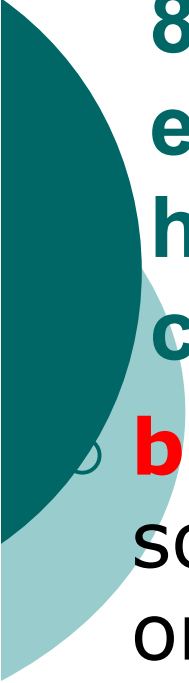
tend to sb/sth [phrasal verb]

- to deal with the problems or needs of a person or thing:
- Would you mind waiting? I'm **tending to** another customer at the moment.
- Nurses **tended to** the injured.

tendency noun [C] [+ to infinitive]

- a likelihood to behave in a particular way or to like a particular thing:
- His tendency **to** exaggerate is well known.
- He has a tendency **to** be fat.


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- **7. In multicultural America, issues of eye contact have brought about social conflicts of two different kinds: (lines 31-32)**
 - **bring sth about** [phrasal verb] to cause something to happen:
 - He **brought about** his company's collapse by his reckless spending.
 - The morning reading will **bring about** many improvements in the English pronunciation.
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8. The customers translated the lack of eye contact as a sign of disrespect, a habit **blamed for contributing to the open confrontation (line 34)**

○ **blame** verb [T] to say or think that someone or something did something wrong or is responsible for something bad happening:

- Don't blame me (= It is not my fault) if you miss the bus!
- **blame sb. for sth./doing sth.**
- The parents **blame** Mrs. Smith **for** leading their students astray.


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- Hugh blames his mother **for** his failure.
 - Hugh blames his failure **on** his mother.

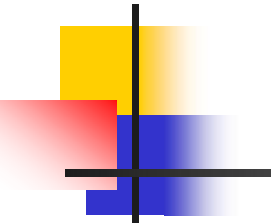


○ **blame** noun [U]

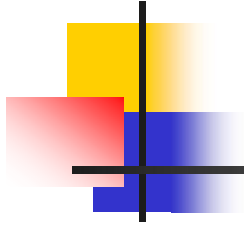
○ The health officials put/pin the blame for the disease spread on ill-informed reports.

(= state that the reason for the disease is ill-informed reports)

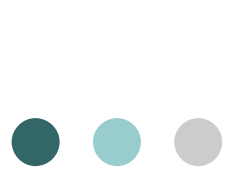
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- **contribute to sth** [phrasal verb]
to help to cause an event or situation:
 - Smoking certainly **contributed to** his early death.

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- **9. On the other hand, direct eye contact has now **taken on** a new meaning among the young generation and across ethnic borders. (line 39-40)**

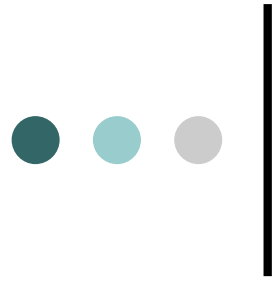
- **take sth on** [phrasal verb]
- ① (BEGIN) to begin to have a particular quality: 采取, 采纳, 采用
- 不久他开始了新的生活方式。
- He soon **took on** new ways of life.
- Her voice **took on** a troubled tone.



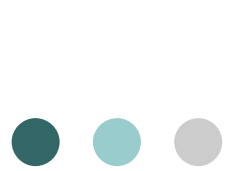
- ② to gain, get 获得
- The word **takes on** an entirely different meaning in this context.
- 在他的笔下，枯燥的历史事实写得有血有肉。
- The dry facts of history **take on** flesh and blood under his pen.



- 10. Much like the archaic phrase “ I demand satisfaction ,” which became the overture to a duel, mad-dogging may become a prelude to a physical encounter. (lines 49-51)
- **overture** ① (MUSIC) noun [C] a piece of music which is an introduction to a longer piece, especially an opera:
- the overture **to** "The Magic Flute"



- ② a beginning of an incident
- 我感觉到这是引向一场争吵的序曲。
- I sensed that this was the overture **to** an argument.



- **prelude** (INTRODUCTION) noun [C usually singular] something that comes before a more important event or action which introduces or prepares for it:
- The changes are seen as **a prelude to** a range of reforms.