

## How to Use This Book

### *To the Teacher*

This textbook focuses primarily on global listening and speaking skills and is based on content from the fields of intercultural communication and linguistics. This textbook is designed primarily for students who have an intermediate or advanced level of proficiency in English.

This textbook does not explicitly teach the mechanics of listening or speaking. It is assumed that students have already received instruction on such matters recently (or that they are simultaneously engaged in such training elsewhere). The central aim of this text is to **increase cultural awareness, enhance global listening skills, and improve overall fluency in spoken English**. Another primary aim is to strengthen students' pragmatic competence.

A variety of exercises have been included to appeal to many types of students in different settings, but it is not expected that all the exercises in this book would be covered during a single term. Each task has one of these icons: individual, pair, small group, large group, or speech. Icons were selected to generate discussion or critical thinking where most appropriate. However, tasks can be adapted or modified based on class dynamics, class size, or session length. A large percentage of the tasks involve film clips. Since a picture is worth a thousand words, I have discovered over the years that a carefully selected video clip can often get the intended message across as effectively as (or even *more* effectively than) a longer, text-based explanation.

Most of the films available in this book are readily available through a number of different distributors. In order to comply with international copyright laws, only original, genuine brand DVDs or videos should be employed. Fair use guidelines must be carefully followed at all times. The studio or organization holding the rights to specific films may vary from one country to another, and these rights are subject to change over time. Timings may also vary across countries due to different editing considerations.

An attempt was made to assemble a diverse sample of film titles, representing a number of different languages and cultures. *No claim is made here that the sample selected or the specific films chosen are bias free.* We trust that second language educators will know how to use the more sensitive material with students. The location of the clips and their lengths are given from the point after the sponsoring

studio logo disappears to the moment where the scene begins and ends. Offensive scenes have, for the most part, been edited out. Instructors are *strongly encouraged* to preview any film clip before showing it to students to verify that it is indeed what they want to show in light of their specific curricular goals.

More information about the clips (in addition to timing) and additional supplemental materials and suggestions can be found at [www.press.umich.edu/esl/](http://www.press.umich.edu/esl/).

The process of communicating across cultures via verbal or silent language is much more complex than it might at first appear. This book was written to help focus discussions in the classroom on some of the more interesting and exciting topics for students from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. This is a journey in which we all play a role and one in which what we know ourselves is perhaps less important than how we encourage others to take their own small steps toward a deeper and more fulfilling understanding of what it means to be part of an intercultural world.

## ***To the Student***

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This book does not really focus on how to listen or how to speak. It is assumed that you have already received instruction on these matters recently (or that you are being taught those specific details now). The central aim of this text is to enhance global listening skills and improve overall fluency in spoken English. Other aims are to strengthen your pragmatic competence and to explore the fields of intercultural communication and linguistics.

Hopefully you will see many opportunities to share personal experiences from your intercultural journey with your fellow classmates. There are thousands of languages and cultures in this wide world and the vast majority of them have never been portrayed through films before. Perhaps you will see ways to enlarge our world by opening doors into those communities through speeches, presentations, meaningful dialogues and other activities.