

Check out the following intercultural scenarios:

FIRST SCENARIO: DECODING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUES

Decoding a Swiss-Asian Indian Intercultural Dialogue:
A Dialogue Between Mr. Weisheit and Mr. Patel

- Mr. Weisheit: Well Sanjay, it looks like we'll need to wrap up the final project with an intense meeting of nonstop work on Saturday. At least we will be able to get a couple of beers when it's over! See you then!
- Mr. Patel: I see ... Well ...
- Mr. Weisheit: Ok, see you!
- Mr. Patel: Well ... yes ... I think ... um ... Mr. Weisheit, ... maybe ...
- Mr. Weisheit: Yes, just think: the project that has been driving us crazy will be out of our office on Saturday. I Can't wait to celebrate!
- Mr. Patel: Yes ... well, this coming Saturday is a very special day in our family. It is my grandfather's eightieth birthday. It is a big day and many relatives will be coming from out of town.
- Mr. Weisheit: I see.
- Mr. Patel: So ... you understand my situation?
- Mr. Weisheit: Of course! I also like to get away from my relatives and in-laws when they come to visit. Now you have a great excuse to get out of it. See you on Saturday, Sanjay!
- Mr. Patel: But ... Mr. Weisheit, perhaps we can talk about this later? ... Mr Weisheit????

SECOND SCENARIO: DECODING INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUES

Decoding a Brazilian-British Intercultural Dialogue:
A Dialogue Between Kouadio and Maggie in a Studio Design Engineering Office

- Kouadio: What did you think of the New Millennium Design project?
- Maggie: Very nice. I am quite pleased.
- Kouadio: So it's good, then? We thought it was a tremendous project, a superbly designed project that will bring the company great rewards due to its amazing details and engineering feats.
- Maggie: Yes. There is one drawing that needs to be changed. Other than that, the design will work fine.
- Kouadio: Hmm. I see.
- Maggie: What about that other assignment you were working on? The Gallactica Project? Any chance I could take a look at it?
- Kouadio: Well, we can make it a priority, if you want. My group of designers is the best in the business, and we work night and day to come up with such projects as the Gallactica—which is a stupendous design, a tremendous effort for all my employees.
- Maggie: Good going. You're a good sport. Thanks, Kouadio.
- Kouadio: So, you want my team to scrap the Millennium design?
- Maggie: Pardon me?

NAME: _____

INTERACTIVE PROBES FOR “DECODING AN INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE” (Ask yourself and probe your classmates’ reactions)

Decoding Analysis for Scenario One:

1. Do you perceive any communication problems with the above dialogue between Mr. Weisheit and Mr. Patel?
2. What are the specific communication problems?
3. Can you infer some cultural assumptions and expectations that Mr. Weisheit has concerning communication?
4. Can you infer some cultural assumptions and expectations that Mr. Patel has concerning communication?

Decoding Analysis for Scenario Two:

1. Do you perceive any communication problems with the above dialogue between Kouadio and Maggie?
2. What are the specific communication problems?
3. Can you infer some cultural assumptions and expectations that Kouadio has concerning communication?
4. Can you infer some cultural assumptions and expectations that Maggie has concerning communication?