

CULTURE AND PEOPLE: International business etiquette and table manners.

Imagine you were looking for a new location for a hotel complex as Alan Bennett is doing in Scotland; what do you know about international business etiquette and table manners? It's important that you are familiar with it since you would meet people from many different countries.



Autoevaluación

Click on the following link where you will find the information about business etiquette and say if the following statements are true or false.

[International business etiquette.](#)

In countries like Denmark, it is expected that you bring a gift to a business meeting.

- True.
- False.

When treating a client to a business meal in china, the most appropriate tipping strategy would be 15 % tip.

- True.
- False.

In France eye contact is frequent and intense.

- True.
- False.

1. Idioms: Idioms related to problematic situations

Let's continue with our section of idioms. In this unit we are going to focus on those idioms related to problematic situations.



Think about it

Think of the meaning of the expression to take the bull by the horns in the following sentence:

I took the bull by the horns and confronted my boss.

Are we talking about a bull?

[Mostrar retroalimentación](#)



Vocabulary

Use the context and your own knowledge to match the idioms with their meaning.

1. I'm in a bit of a fix. I was supposed to arrange a meeting with PWC and I forgot.	<input type="checkbox"/> things start getting better or appear to
2. You say that he was responsible and he blames you. we'll have to get to the bottom of it.	<input type="checkbox"/> try to do something that's too difficult for you
3. I thought I could do this course and study a language but I've bitten off more than I can chew .	<input type="checkbox"/> in difficulty
4. Where can I find someone who speaks Latvian, Spanish and Maltese? It's like looking for a needle in a haystack .	<input type="checkbox"/> not participate in solving a problem
5. Things were looking bad at first but now there's light at the end of the tunnel .	<input type="checkbox"/> reveal one's situation
6. I'm going to lay my cards on the table . I need your help.	<input type="checkbox"/> find the cause of a problem
7. I've tried to do something about it but they didn't want my help so I'm going to take a back seat from now on.	<input type="checkbox"/> Something that's difficult to find

Comprobar

Look at the following table to learn more idioms related to problematic situations:

Idioms related to problematic situations.

Idioms	Meaning
1.To be in a tight corner.	To be in a situation that is difficult to get out of.
2.To be saved by the bell.	To be rescued from a difficult situation because something happens at the last minute.
3.To pour oil on troubled waters.	To do / say things to calm down a situation.
4.To stir things up.	To do / say things to make matters worse.
5.To get a grasp of something	To understand something.
6.To come to a dead end.	To be stuck, not know what to do next
7.The die is cast.	An irrevocable decision has been made which will determine the future.



Ejercicio Resuelto

Click to read the Spanish translation.

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1.1. Now you put it into practice (I)

Autoevaluación

There is a wrong word in each sentence. Write the correct sentence below:

1. As soon as I started my job I realized I had bitten for more than I could chew.

As soon as I started my job I realized, _____ .

2. Trying to find whoever was responsible for doing this is like looking at a needle in a haystack.

Trying to find whoever was responsible for doing this is like _____ .

3. We were saved for the bell when the hotel manager arrived.

_____ when the hotel manager arrived .

4. I didn't say anything. I just took a back chair.

I didn't say anything. _____ .

5. At last, we could see clarity at the end of the tunnel.

At last, we _____ could _____ .

6. After the robbery, the police tried to arrive to the bottom of things.

After the robbery, the police tried to _____ .

Enviar





A step ahead

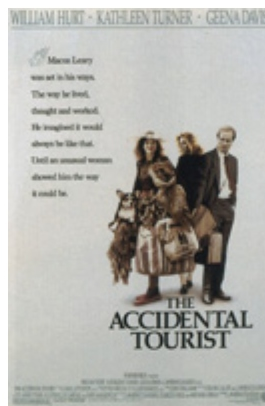
If you are interested in studying more idioms related to problematic situations, click on the following link:

[List of English idioms related to problematic situations.](#)

2. Literature: Anne Tyler's 'The Accidental Tourist'

Anne Tyler is an American novelist who was born in 1941. She was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota and her early  childhood was spent in a succession of Quaker communities in the mountains of North Carolina. She didn't attend school until she was 11 which enabled her to view the world with a certain amount of distance and surprise. She resides in Baltimore, Maryland, where most of her novels are set.

Her tenth novel, The Accidental Tourist was awarded the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1985 and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1986 and was made into a 1988 movie  starring William Hurt and Geena Davis.



Self-evaluation

Read the plot of *The Accidental Tourist* and fill in the gaps with one of the sentences below.

As in many of her previous works, *The Accidental Tourist* focuses on the complexities of family relationships. In this story, middle-aged travel writer Macon Leary finds himself alone and miserable after his son is murdered and his wife leaves him.

Macon Leary writes guidebooks, but _____(a)_____. He does phone interviews and writes sterile reviews of hotel rooms, restaurants and scenery he has never seen. This is a metaphor, obviously, for how Macon lives his life.

The book opens as _____(b)_____. Their young son has been shot in a fast food restaurant during the time when those shootings were happening randomly around the country, and they are both left shaken to the core. The events that happen next are both quirky and bizarre, sometimes even funny, but also life-changing and intense.

_____ (c) _____, and he is left with the couple's unruly dog. To help him cope with the dog, he hires Muriel Pritchett, a "dog whisperer".

_____ (d) _____, and her problems and eccentricities draw him out of his shell. She is energetic and eccentric, and she has a young son who is fatherless and socially stunted. These things keep flowing over into Macon's life, and eventually _____ (e) _____

During the course of the novel, however, Macon confronts his suffering and carves out a new life for himself. Tyler's mixture of comedy and tragedy results in a bittersweet tale of loss and recovery. Critics applaud the novel's characters and Tyler's insight into the complex inner workings of the American family.

Adapted from: http://www.allreaders.com/topics/info_30267.asp

Matching exercise.

Gap	Number	Sentences
(a)	<input type="radio"/>	1. Muriel becomes involved in Macon's life.
(b)	<input type="radio"/>	2. He has never visited the places he writes about.
(c)	<input type="radio"/>	3. Macon and Sarah separate
(d)	<input type="radio"/>	4. Macon and his wife Sarah are on the brink of disaster in their marriage.
(e)	<input type="radio"/>	5. He and Muriel fall in love.

Enviar

Self-evaluation

Read again the plot and look for a word in the text for the following definitions:

- a. A critical appraisal of a book, play, place, etc.
- b. Peculiar:
- c. Difficult to control:
- d. Obtain the services of someone to do a particular job:
- e. Sweet with a bitter aftertaste:

Enviar



A step ahead

If you want to watch the trailer of the film *The Accidental Tourist*, click on the link below:

[Text summary](#)

3.- Music: Bobby McFerrin's 'Don't Worry, Be Happy'.



Quotes to make you think

Since you get more joy out of giving joy to others, you should put a good deal of thought into the happiness that you are able to give.

Eleanor Roosevelt.

Don't Worry, Be Happy is a song by the musician Bobby McFerrin. 📌 Released in September 1988, it became the first a cappella song to reach number one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, a position it held for two weeks.

The song's title is taken from a famous quote by Meher Baba, an Indian mystic who often used the expression **Don't worry, be happy** when cabling his followers in the West.



A step ahead

Click on the following link to listen and read the lyrics of Don't worry be happy:



Think about it

What happens in the following situations according to the lyrics of the song?

1. What happens when in your life you worry about some trouble?
2. What does the landlord say?
3. What happens to your face when you worry?

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A step ahead

If you want to know more about Bobby McFerrin you can visit his official website:

[Bobby McFerrin's official website.](#)

Appendix: Licences of Resources

Licences of Resources used in culture and people. Ho

Resource (1)	Resource information (1)	Resource (2)				
	<p>By: sean dreilinger. Licence: CC by-nc-sa. From: http://www.flickr.com/photos/seandreilinger/3736824062/</p>		<p>By: Co Licenc From: <a 'the="" a="" for="" href="http://</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td></p>	<p>By: newhousedesign. Licence: CC by-nc-sa. From: http://www.flickr.com/photos/newhousedesign/3363018479/</p>		<p>By: Ev Licenc From: </p>