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Reaching Out

by Robert Long

Sample

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2010

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Published by Perceptia Press, Nagoya, Japan in association with Panurgic Publishing
Edited by Brian Cullen
Design, layout, and cover by Paul Lewis

1st Edition

Printing: 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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ISBN978-4-939130-75-5

Book Code: 101: E50

About the Author

Robert Long has been teaching in Japan since 1994. He has been the editor of *The Language Teacher*, and continues to be actively involved in the Japan Association for Language Teaching. He has published numerous EFL textbooks for reading, conversation, and ESP courses. His research focuses on conversation analysis and various pragmatic issues. He continues to push for more innovative EFL textbooks which incorporate recent findings of cognitive learning research.

Acknowledgements

An earlier version containing some of the material presented here was previously published under the name *Reaching For Basic Comprehension*.

Thanks to Hiroko and Michaelangelo for assistance with the cover.

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Hokusai CD-rom Anthology, Master Graphique, 1997

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Unit 1: Introductions, Family, and Friends



1. Kick Off >>> “Who are you?”

Ask your classmates these questions to find out more about them.

Questions	Classmate 1	Classmate 2
a. Where are you from?		
b. What would you like to do in the future?		
c. What kind of hobbies do you have?		
d. Where do you live?		
e. What kind of part-time job would you like to do?		
f. <i>Your question:</i>		

2. Jigsaw Dialogue >>> Partner A (Partner B, turn to page 12)

Read Carla's lines of the dialogue below to your partner. Listen to your partner and fill in the blanks.

- ➔ CARLA: Oh, you must be Susan. I've heard so much about you from James.
- ⇒ SUSAN: Oh really? I he said nice things! Carla. Where are you from?
- ➔ CARLA: I'm from Los Angeles. I've lived there for ten years. So, what do you do, Susan?
- ⇒ SUSAN: Well, I just got I'm so happy about it because I've been looking for almost two months! And, Carla?
- ➔ CARLA: Well, this summer, I've been studying Japanese and doing some horse riding. I'll be entering university in October. Where do you live, Susan?
- ⇒ SUSAN: My new job is at an Internet company, so I'll be based in California. But – what are you at university?
- ➔ CARLA: I'm going to study at UCLA. I'll major in English literature.

3. Related Questions >>> Possible Questions, Possible Answers

A. Circle the question which is closest in meaning.

So, what are you doing now, Susan?

1. Where do you work at the moment?
2. How are you?
3. What's up?

So, what kind of hobbies do you have, Susan?

4. Do you have time for anything except work?
5. What do you do in your free time?
6. What's new?

Where are you living?

7. Don't you live just down the road?
8. Where is your house?
9. What is your house like?

So, what's new?

10. What's up with you today?
11. How are things?
12. When did you move here? Are you new?

So, how is your mother doing?

13. Does your mother work?
14. Does your mother do any interesting things?
15. How is your mother?

B. Here are some possible answers to questions 1-15. Decide which answer matches each question. The first one is done for you as an example.

Question		Possible Answers
1	b a c	I'm fine, thanks. I work at a company called Samtone. Do you know it? Nothing. Why do you ask that?
2		Not a lot. Everything is the same as usual. No, I'm really busy every day. Oh, I love to play tennis and other sports.
3		My house is in the suburbs. It's pretty big. Oh no. I live about 30 kilometers from her.
4		I met this really great guy last week. Nothing. I feel great! Yes, I just moved into the city last year.
5		No, she is a housewife. Not too bad, but her leg is still a little painful. Yes, she has lots of hobbies. She really likes doing volunteer work, too.

Now, choose five interesting questions from 1-15 and ask these questions to your partner.

4. Grammar Post >>> *Exploratory Questions*

Study the language box below carefully.

We use exploratory questions to learn more about something. We can use these question words.

- *which* (determiner): “Which of your brothers is the oldest?”
- *what* (thing): “What is the best game for a family to play together?”
- *whose* (owner): “Whose towel is this?”
- *who* (person): “Who is going to go to the store?”
- *where* (location): “Where is the remote control for the television?”
- *how* (manner): “How is your sister going to spend the vacation?”

Practice

Fill in the blanks with one of the exploratory question words.

1. money is this?
2. much time do you have?
3. do you know in this group?
4. do you think is more important, studying or having fun?
5. do you think he has gone?
6. would you like to do this evening?

5. Shadowing Game >>> *Improve your Listening and Pronunciation*

Read the sentences to your partner. Your partner should repeat the sentence without looking at the book.

Role A

1. What does your father do?
2. Does your mother work?
3. Who is your best friend?
4. Does your father have any interesting hobbies?

Role B

1. Do you often meet your friends from elementary school?
2. How many brothers and sisters do you have?
3. Is your father younger than your mother?
4. What does your family do on vacations?

6. Survey and Analysis >>> Family Life

Fill out the survey for your own family and then ask the questions to your partner.

Family Conversations <i>Who-questions + Infinitives</i>	My Family						Partner's Family					
	Father	Mother	Sister	Brother	Me	No one	Father	Mother	Sister	Brother	Me	No one
1. Who is able to make dinner in your family?												
2. Who do you like to talk to the most?												
3. Who has to clean and do most of the chores in the house?												
4. Who likes to argue the most?												
5. Who has to travel the most?												
6. Who likes to spend the most time on the computer?												
7. Who has to pay the bills?												
8. Who likes to watch TV the most?												
9. Who continues to teach you the most about "life"?												
10. Who likes to talk with you if you have a problem?												
11. Who likes to go swimming with you?												
12. Who do you like to play tennis with?												
13. Who taught you how to clean the house?												
14. Who taught you how to cook?												
15. Who do you like to play video games with?												
16. Who do you like to hike or to climb mountains with?												
17. Who taught you how to play games like <i>shogi</i> and chess?												
18. Who taught you how to ride a bike?												
Scores												

- 15 - 18 points: A very close and good relationship
- 11 - 14 points: A distant but functional relationship
- 7 - 10 points: A working relationship
- 0 - 6 points: A distant relationship

tear here

7. Complete the Conversation >>> *Going on a Family Picnic*

Some parts of this conversation are missing. Think about the roles and situation, then write in the missing lines to complete the conversations. The useful expressions may help you.

Role A: An Exchange Student

You are an exchange student in Japan. You are making plans with a Japanese family to go on a picnic.

Role B: Yourself

You are making plans with an exchange student to go on a picnic with your family. Decide what kind of food to bring, and ask what s/he would like to do.

➔ So, what kind of food should I bring?

⇒ Oh, most Japanese like to have
 I also think you can bring some sandwiches. Do you have any preferences?

➔ Hmm... maybe a ham and cheese sandwich. Oh, where should we go?

⇒ Oh, that's easy! We should go
 Now, is there anyone you'd like to bring along?

➔ Of course—Fumi and Megumi. What time should we leave, and which day do you think is best?

⇒ Hmm



Useful Expressions

- So, what kind of food do you like?
- As for a place to go, it depends on...
- What would you like to do after the picnic?
- How is your mother doing?
- Maybe we should also bring... What do you think?
- Did we forget anything?

9. Evaluation Challenge >>> *Making Questions about Families*

Write exploratory questions about your partner's family using the following key words for the questions and some of the verb infinitives below.

1. Can you	.....
2. Do you	.....
3. Must you	.....
4. Could you	.....
5. Did you	.....
6. Has he	.....
7. Will you	.....
8. Does she	.....
9. Have they	.....
10. Would you	.....
11. Who you	.....
12. Am I	.....
13. Shall we	.....
14. What	.....
15. Is there	.....
16. Should they	.....
17. Which	.....
18. Are you	.....
19. May I	.....
20. When can you	.....
21. Was I	.....
22. Why were you	.....
23. How	.....
24. Where	.....
25. Why	.....

Verb Infinitives

- to make
- to talk
- to clean
- to teach
- to spend
- to hike
- to ride a bike
- to read
- to swim
- to climb
- to watch
- to walk
- to play
- to think
- to write
- to run
- to go
- to try
- to talk with
- to drive

10. Jigsaw Dialogue >>> Partner B (Partner A, turn to page 5)

Read Susan's lines of the dialogue below to your partner. Listen to your partner and fill in the blanks.

- ➔ CARLA: Oh, you must be Susan. I've heard from James.
- ⇒ SUSAN: Oh really? I hope he said nice things! You must be Carla. Where are you from?
- ➔ CARLA: I'm from Los Angeles. I've lived there for ten years. So,, Susan?
- ⇒ SUSAN: Well, I just got a new job. I'm so happy about it because I've been looking for almost two months! And what do you do, Carla?
- ➔ CARLA: Well, this summer, I've been and doing some horse riding. I'll be entering university Where do you live, Susan?
- ⇒ SUSAN: My new job is at an Internet company, so I'll be based in California. But tell me about you – what are you going to study at university?
- ➔ CARLA: I'm going to study at UCLA. I'll English literature.

Sample

Unit 2: Interests and Hobbies



1. Kick Off >>> “What are your hobbies?”

Answer these questions about your interests and hobbies. Then ask the questions to your classmates and make notes in the table.

Outside Activities	You	Classmate 1	Classmate 2
You play baseball, don't you?			
You run, right?			
You never go dancing, do you?			
You bike a lot, don't you?			
I bet you swim, right?			
Indoor Activities			
You can draw pictures pretty well, can't you?			
You play a musical instrument, right?			
You do a lot of calligraphy, don't you?			
You're a good writer, aren't you?			
School Activities			
You really like chemistry, don't you?			
You always get good scores in physics, right?			
You don't like math so much, do you?			
You don't know much about history, right?			

Now, use the information to write a brief summary about one of your classmates.

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