

1. Complete sentences with words given below.*lines**ground**opener**board**foot**break**seat*

- a) The committee will certainly *take your opinions on* _____ before making a decision.
- b) He told a few jokes to _____ *the ice*.
- c) *Reading between the* _____, I'd say he isn't happy with the situation.
- d) It seems increasingly unlikely that the two sides will find any *common* _____.
- e) I'll be happy to *take a back* _____ when Robin takes over.
- f) I *got off on the wrong* _____ *with* Patrick.
- g) Living in another country can be a real eye-_____.

2. Match the idioms from ex. 7 (a-g) to their meanings.

1. immediately establish a bad relationship with someone when you first meet them or first start working with them
2. guess something that is not expressed directly
3. do or say something that makes people feel less shy or nervous in a social situation
4. a situation that shows you something surprising that you did not know before
5. something that people can agree about, especially when they disagree about other things
6. consider an idea, problem, or situation and try to deal with it
7. deliberately become less active, and give up trying to control things

3. Answer the questions:

- a) Does your boss always take your opinion on board?
- b) How can you break the ice when you're on a business meeting?
- c) What was a real eye-opener for you when it comes to other cultures?
- d) In which situations do you prefer to take a back seat at work?
- e) What should you bear in mind if you want to find a common ground with somebody?
- f) Does your culture require reading between the lines?
- g) When was the last time you got off on the wrong foot with someone? What happened?