

# Making the right noises

# Sounds and their meanings

Read the dialogue.

A client is trying to deal with a bank. Her company wants a loan. What is the bank director's reaction?

CLIENT My company needs forty million dollars for the new project.

BANK DIRECTOR OK.

CLIENT We're going to build a new office in Singapore.

BANK DIRECTOR Right.

CLIENT We can pay back the money – there's no problem with that.

BANK DIRECTOR OK.

CLIENT I can have my accountants call you next week.

BANK DIRECTOR Yep.

CLIENT So, we have a deal!

BANK DIRECTOR Yes ... no! I mean I need some time. I'll get back to you.

## Sounds and their meanings

Read the dialogue. This time the bank director's reactions are different.

CLIENT My company needs forty million dollars for the new project.

BANK DIRECTOR Uh-huh.

CLIENT We're going to build a new office in Singapore.

BANK DIRECTOR Uh-huh.

CLIENT We can pay back the money – there's no problem with that.

BANK DIRECTOR Uh-huh.

CLIENT I can have my accountants call you next week.

BANK DIRECTOR Uh-huh.

CLIENT So, we have a deal?

BANK DIRECTOR I need some time. I'll get back to you.

# Making the right noises

- Match the sounds with the meanings below:
- a. Isn't it cute (USA)/sweet (UK)?
- b. Now I understand!
- c. Give me time to think.
- d. I'm listening.
- e. Excuse me? (USA)/Pardon? (UK)
- 
- What sounds do you use to express these meanings in your language?

# Making the right noises

1

TEACHER What's the difference between a hexagon and an octagon?

STUDENT Um ... a hexagon and an octagon ... um ...

TEACHER Go on.

STUDENT Er ... a hexagon has six sides, and an octagon has ... er ... eight sides.

2

WOMAN What's the time?

MAN Eh?

WOMAN What's the time?

MAN The time! It's six o'clock.

3

SUE Hello, Phil. It's Sue.

PHIL Hi, Sue.

SUE I was just on the phone to Josh King.

PHIL Uh-huh.

SUE He's coming to London on Thursday ...

PHIL Mm.

SUE ... and I'm going to bring him to the meeting on Friday...

PHIL Uh-huh.

SUE I hope we'll see you there.

PHIL Yeah. Look forward to it. Bye, Sue.

# Making the right noises

4

MOTHER Katie said her first word today.

FATHER Really? What was it?

MOTHER She said 'Daddy'.

FATHER Aaah!

5

MAN This laser printer isn't working.

SUPERVISOR Let me see.

MAN I don't understand it.

SUPERVISOR It's simple. There isn't any paper.

MAN Ah! Sorry.

# Interjections are words which express emotions

**gosh phew wow ouch hey yuk oops ahem**

- a. When you are surprised or impressed by something
- b. When you are really surprised or impressed by something
- c. When the weather is hot, or if you have a narrow escape from danger
- d. When you feel pain
- e. When you find something disgusting
- f. When you want to get someone's attention, politely
- g. When you want to get someone's attention, urgently
- h. When you make a mistake, or drop something

## Complete the sentences with the correct interjection

- a. ‘ \_\_\_\_\_, that is utterly amazing.’
- b. ‘ \_\_\_\_\_, that was close. I nearly fell into the river then
- c. ‘ \_\_\_\_\_, that tastes awful
- d. ‘ \_\_\_\_\_, that hurt!’
- e. ‘ \_\_\_\_\_, I’m sorry. I didn’t mean to drop it
- f. ‘ \_\_\_\_\_, are you listening?’
- g. ‘ \_\_\_\_\_, watch out!
- h. ‘ \_\_\_\_\_, did he really? I am surprised’