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English Communication for Creatives

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Preface

The best way to learn a language and to become confident speaking is to enjoy using it. *English Communication for Creatives* is for those with an interest in the world of art and design. This textbook will inspire and stimulate creative communication in the classroom.

The most important skills of the 21st century, for participation both socially and professionally in today's global community, are the Four Cs; critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication. This book is intended as a framework to develop these skills in an enjoyable, imaginative, and thought-provoking environment. It will help to prepare and support the needs of the creative individual in this rapidly-changing world.

Each unit begins with a pair work activity to encourage creative thinking in English. This is followed by a dialogue presenting high frequency conversational English. Natural phrases and reactions are modeled to help students feel comfortable conversing in daily life situations with questions to encourage students to expand the conversation, and continue in a more personalized manner.

The reading section features a short essay, in which students are encouraged to think about the topic and explore further. Vocabulary used in creative environments is included with the intention of helping them express themselves with imagination and flair. Each essay is followed by a group work activity to encourage selfexpression, critical thinking, and collaboration.

A short writing activity will form the basis of a mini presentation. Effective written and spoken communication is one of the key skills required by employers and being able to present is vital for success in the modern workplace. Each unit will focus on a presentation skill and provide useful expressions. Gradually students will become more confident presenting their ideas to others.

By the end of the course we hope students will be able to discuss issues that are important to them, to share their ideas, and express themselves. We believe that the English classroom is not just a place to learn a language, but also an opportunity for students to learn more about the world of art and design, about themselves and their classmates. Through this textbook students will be able to connect in a meaningful way and form new friendships. We hope you enjoy using this textbook as much as we have enjoyed creating it.

How to Use This Textbook for Students

We hope this book will help you to enjoy using English in a creative way while getting to know your classmates and gaining confidence.

There are five sections.

In the first section you will work in pairs (sometimes a group) on an activity which will engage your brain creatively in English. Don't worry about making mistakes. Just try to relax and do the activity as well as you can.

The second section provides a chance to practice a natural dialogue. Pay attention to any phrases and reactions in the conversation. It is often these small utterances that help the natural flow of conversation. Practice the conversation in pairs to get used to the flow. Then continue talking to your partner using the questions. Try to have a natural conversation.

In the third section you will read an essay. Go through it once. It may feel difficult as it is meant to be challenging. Look up words you don't know. Take a note of any words you find interesting, try to make sentences with them in your notebook. When you finish, take some time to think about the questions, and do some more reading on the subject. This essay should provide you with information and ideas for the next section.

The fourth section is a group activity. These activities are to help you think critically, and to feel comfortable speaking in a group. This is the time to strengthen your collaboration skills, to work together and also to challenge each other. It is important to listen to your group. So, try to understand and ask questions. It is ok not to agree. Make sure to express your own ideas. Collaboration is about understanding and respecting other people's points of view while challenging and helping each other grow.

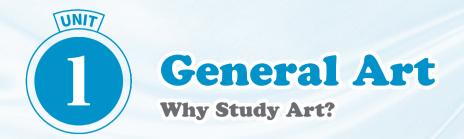
In the fifth section you will complete a small writing task to use for a mini presentation. This will just be a guideline - a chance to organize your thoughts and look up words you will need to use. Focus on the presentation skill for each week and remember the past weeks lessons. Try to use the useful expressions, challenge yourself and before you know it you will be presenting in English with confidence. Listen carefully to your classmates' presentation, and try to ask them questions and also give feedback on what was good and how they can improve. Help each other to make progress. Enjoy the practice and don't worry about being perfect!

We believe learning should be challenging and fun. We hope you enjoy this course.

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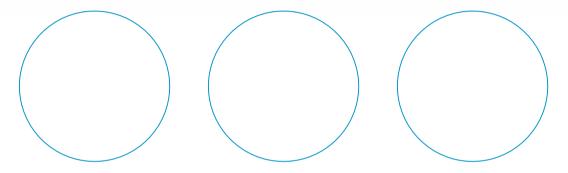
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1. ACTIVITY

Draw a picture of three things about you; things that are important to your identity. Show them to your partner and talk about them. Ask questions.



2. CONVERSATION O2

Nick: Nice to meet you, I'm Nick.

Rina: I'm Rina. Nice to meet you, too. What are you studying?

Nick: I'm studying oil painting.

Rina: Me, too. Are you a first year?

Nick: Yes, I am. How about you?

Rina: I'm in my third year. Where are you from?

Nick: I'm originally from France, but my family moved to Kyoto when I was 12

years old. And you?

Rina: This is my hometown. I live with my parents. So, welcome! If there is

anything you need to know, please ask me. I'm happy to help.

Nick: Actually, there is one thing....

Imagine!

- · What do you think Nick will ask Rina?
- · Why do you think his family moved to Kyoto?

3. QUESTIONS

- · Where are you from?
- · What do you like about your hometown?
- · What are you studying?
- · Why did you choose this course?
- · Do you live alone or with your family?



4. ESSAY O3

The fourth industrial revolution has begun. The world is changing and it's an exciting time. But it is also full of uncertainty. With fast developments in AI, robotics, big data and automation, no one knows what the future will hold. In fact, it is said that 85% of jobs that will exist in 2030 have not been invented yet. Governments have been promoting STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) to prepare people for these changes.

So, we may ask, is this the time to study art? Yes! Perhaps even more than ever. To work alongside AI and robots so called "human" skills will be essential. These skills include creativity, problem solving, communication, and team work. These are some of the transferable skills that studying art will provide students with.

Of course, we must not forget that art makes our life more beautiful. Art and artists play a vital role in human society. Can you imagine a world without artists and designers? We are surrounded by their work, from films, clothes, music, houses, cars, to the design of our toothbrush. Beauty creates harmony and makes our daily lives more enjoyable. It can cheer us up and inspire us.

In addition, art isn't only about beauty. Art plays a role in driving society forward. Art and artists provide people with material to think with. They show us new ways to see things and challenge our beliefs. Artists look at society, question what is normal, and what is happening. They reflect them back and 20 hopefully help us to make a better world to live in.

Think!

- · What can we learn from studying art?
- What is the role of the artist in society?
- · Why is art important?



5. GROUP WORK - Mind Map

Draw a mind map about you. Start with a picture of you in the middle. Draw lines and write as many things about yourself as possible.

Ideas for your mind map could be: family, hometown, hobbies, food, music, pets, free time, sports, interests.



Next, show it to your group and ask each other questions. Try to find three things you all have in common.

Three things we all have in common are:

1.	
2.	
3.	

6. WRITING for mini presentation - Introduce Yourself

Use your mind map as a starting point. Write about yourself. Tell us about y hometown, family, pets, music, hobbies, sports, anything is ok. What kind of do you like? Why? What don't you like? Why did you choose the course yo studying? What do you want to do while at university? What is your future d			

\star Presentation Tip \star

★ Smile

If you are smiling and enjoying talking, it is more likely that your audience will feel the same way. Even if you are nervous, try to smile. You don't have to smile all the time. The beginning when you greet your audience is most important.

Smile and the world smiles with you.

★ Useful Expressions

To begin with, try a big smile at the beginning and the end of your presentation.

"Hello everyone, let me tell you a little bit about myself."

When you are finished, say...

"Thank you for listening." and "Do you have any questions?"

8 English Communication for Creatives Unit 1 General Art

1. ACTIVITY

What is a good way to meet people and make friends? Rank the following, you can add your own ideas. Next, as a group, come to an agreement on the top three. Make sure to give reasons for why you think so.

join a club / volunteer / smile at people / talk to your neighbors / go to a café / travel alone / social media / your idea...

	Your Order	Why?	Group Order
1			
2			
3			

I think	is the best / second best / third best way to meet people,
because	
What do you think	?
That's a good point	t, but I think is third, because

2. CONVERSATION O

 $\textbf{Kosei:} \ \ Do \ you \ mind \ if \ I \ sit \ here?$

Eric: Not at all. Go ahead.

Kosei: Could you pass me the menu?

Eric: Sure, here. I recommend the hot chocolate fudge cake. It's really good.

Kosei: Thanks. I'll try it then. I love chocolate. I need a treat.

Eric: Tough day?

Kosei: No. It was good actually. I just finished a big project. How about you?

Eric: It was my day off. So, I went hiking. **Kosei:** I love hiking, too. Where did you go?

Eric:

Imagine!

- · What might happen next? Think of the next line.
- · Is this a good way to start a conversation?

3. QUESTIONS

- · How do you treat yourself?
- Where do you spend most of your time? At home, work, school, or somewhere else?
- · Do you prefer to spend time alone or with friends?
- · What is a good way to start a conversation?
- · What do you do when you feel lonely?



4. ESSAY 05

In Edward Hopper's famous "Nighthawks" painting (1942), we look through a large glass window, from a dark street, into a brightly lit room. There are three lonely disconnected customers sat in a downtown diner. This painting shows us a picture of urban loneliness. Was this the beginning of the epidemic of loneliness?

Since Hopper's time, people have continued to get lonelier. In Japan over 40% of people say they often feel lonely. Loneliness is bad for our health. It is now being called a health crisis. It can shorten a person's life span as much as smoking 15 cigarettes a day and can increase anxiety, depression, heart disease, dementia, and even weaken the immune system.

What can we do? Can social media help connect people? Maybe not. Studies have shown that 30-minutes-a-day of social media can help bring people together. But more than two hours on social media causes feelings of isolation. Humans need face-to-face contact. One idea to help that has become popular recently is "Third Place." In the 1980's Sociologist Ray Oldenburg said people need three places for healthy and happy lives. The first place is home, the second is work or school. The Third Place is a place where people can relax and hang out. It can be a café, bar, park, gym, community center. It's a place where everyone and anyone of all ages from different backgrounds and professions is welcome. It is a place where you can connect and converse.

As in Hopper's painting, we are still staring at other people through brightly lit glass screens. But now they are on our smart phones. It's time to put the phones down and get out in the community and connect. What is your Third Place?

Think!

- Why do you think so many people feel lonely?
- · What do you think are good points and bad points of social media?
- · Do you think third places are important?

