Teacher: Pang Man Chung Book's title: 一分鐘英語 - 英美文化 ABC Author: 管曉霞 Publisher: 中國永利水電出版社 Sharing:

As always preached picking up a language is never barely for communication but also a tool that allows one to delve into a culture. The same goes with our English learning. If one strives to master the language of English, it is impossible to isolate himself from the histories or cultural backgrounds of the Britons, Americans, or other native-speaking countries of English.

You have probably been for ages training to speak, to read, to write and to listen, very practically and systematically, throughout your English learning journey. You may be an expert in phonics or phonetics, vocabulary, or grammar rules that equip you to socialise well; however, practically speaking, you could trip over, or it backfires that you miscommunicate when cultural discrepancies between the East and the West arise.

For instance, a question of 'How much money do you earn a month?' would definitely appear rude or intruding to foreigners despite that it is very commonly asked out of curiosity or to show care in Asian cultures. Another example would be that it sounds weird when we greet one foreigner by simply asking 'Have you eaten your lunch?'. All these are due to language use derailing the culture.

This book aims to offer English learners an insight of western, particularly the British and American, cultures with pieces of cross-translated articles that involve all kinds like of geography, politics, celebrities, customs, and legals, such that you would be able to use the language more effectively and accurately.

Some pieces are informatively interesting! Pick yours!

