

## Notes for Teachers on “Laughter, the Spice of Life

1. I advise teachers to use the method proposed in the reading procedure described in ‘General Hints to Teachers on Page 2 at the front of this book, unless they have a better method which they are accustomed to using. The same applies to the procedure for reading all the pieces in this book.
2. Students should be constantly reminded to use their mouths as well as their eyes when practising reading. In every kind of sports, practice of the muscles is absolutely essential for success in any game. Likewise, speaking another language requires practice in the use of the muscles of the mouth. Students therefore need to practise reading aloud. (You may like to explain the difference between ‘aloud’ and ‘loudly’, to avoid complaints from neighbours in our closely-packed noisy environment.)
3. This lesson, ‘Laughter, the Spice of Life’, gives the class or group an opportunity to discuss different habits that may cause misunderstanding between different nationalities e.g. giving or accepting something with one hand instead of the Chinese polite way of using both hands. Another example would be hooking one finger upwards to beckon someone to come near (very rude to Chinese), instead of bending the whole hand down for the same purpose.
4. The overall intention of the piece is to teach young people that prejudices are often caused by lack of understanding of the customs of other nationalities, but that fundamentally all human beings have the same hopes or fears, and joys or sorrows. Consequently those who harbour racial prejudice only show how ignorant they are.
5. Try to keep the class interested by introducing some humour or something of local interest. Try to get the feeling of the class, and change tactics if you see that they are bored, by making some remark to attract their attention.