

Vocabulary and Pronunciation

NOTE: the following words are found in the article “**Laughter, the Spice of Life**”

The SYLLABLES UNDERLINED are those you should EMPHASISE.

personality, noun, - qualities that form a person’s character

sensitive, adjective – easily upset or made angry

decade, noun – a period of ten years

infuriate, verb – make a person angry

custom, noun - the usual behaviour of people in a particular society

pact, noun – an agreement

fripperies, noun – showy or unnecessary ornaments

burst out **laughing**, verb – laugh aloud suddenly

magnetic, adjective – having the power to pull metals together

gadget, noun – a tool or device

tolerate, verb –accept someone or something we do not really agree with

prejudice, noun- an opinion formed without reason or previous knowledge

STUDY THE SECOND SENTENCE of the first paragraph of ‘Laughter, the Spice of Life’, and learn how to analyse your own sentences so as to avoid errors in sentence structure:

‘Although the colour of our skin, our eyes and hair are very similar, our personalities and interests are very different.’ The first clause begins with the subordinating conjunction ‘Although...’, and the second clause, which is the main clause, begins ‘our size ...’.

In English, in a sentence with two clauses, there is only ONE CONJUNCTION. CHINESE is different, and this sentence in Chinese would have two conjunctions: ‘Although the colour, but our size...’ (This structure would be wrong in English). Learn the ENGLISH structure and do not translate Chinese to English. By comparing Chinese sentence structure with English structure, you can learn to avoid writing ‘Chinglish’.