

Low-Context and High-Context Communication

Scenario 1: Both Friends Are From Culture A

A1: "We're going to New Orleans this weekend."

A2: "Sounds like fun! I wish we were going with you. How long are you going to be there?" *[If she wants a ride, she will ask for one.]*

A1: "We're going for three days. By the way, we need a ride to the airport. Are you available to take us?"

A2: "Sure. What time do you need to be there?"

A1: "Our plane leaves at 3:00 this Saturday."

A2: "No problem. I'll pick you up at noon."

Scenario 2: Both Friends Are From Culture B

B1: "We're going to New Orleans this weekend."

B2: "I've never been there before, but it sounds like fun. How long will you stay there?"

B1: "Three days." *[I need a ride to the airport; I hope she'll offer me a ride.]*

B2: *[She may need a ride to the airport.]* "I am available this weekend and would be happy to see you off at the airport."

B1: "Are you sure it's not too much trouble?"

B2: "It's never too much trouble for a friend."

Scenario 3: One Friend From Culture A, One Friend From Culture B

B1: "We're going to New Orleans this weekend."

A2: "Sounds like fun! I wish we were going with you. How long are you going to be there?" *[If she wants a ride, she will ask for one.]*

B1: "Three days." *[I need a ride to the airport; I hope she'll offer me a ride.]*

A2: *[She must not need a ride since she didn't mention it].* "Have a great time! I'll see you when you get back."

B1: *[If she had been able to give me a ride, she would have offered it.]* "See you then."