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How do Chinese Say NO?

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How do Chinese say No? -- Options explored

- 1. The two step approach
 - A) Being complimentary
 - B) ... ?
- 2. The delay tactics
- 3. Yes, but
- 4. It's not you, it's me!
- 5. The If-only approach
- 6. Let me tell you a story
- 7. The Sandwich approach



Why can't Chinese say NO?

-- The story of the Gfilta fish



How to turn a NO into a YES?

1) Keep an open mind!

-Avoid the "One Chinese Policy"

2) Do your homework!



10 Questions for the First Meeting

- 1. Who is your dedicated point of contact?
- 2. Will there be a translator?
- 3. Do you know anything about your industry in China?
- 4. Who is your cultural intermediary?
- 5. What do you know about your Chinese counterpart?
- 6. What's your China story? Personal and business
- 7. What are the expectations from the Chinese?
- 8. Will they remember you? (gift, PR, etc.)
- 9. What can you show?
- 10. How will you follow up?
 - Direct VS indirect follow-up
 - > Tools of follow-up: email, phone, Wechat?
 - Make sure they will get your message

After the First meeting...

- 1. Who is your dedicated point of contact now?
- 2. Can this person fully transfer your communication to the decision makers?
- 3. Who can help you if the communication breaks down?
- 4. Are you building a relationship? (holiday greetings...)
- 5. Anyone coming to visit? Are you planning for a second trip?
- 6. How serious is your Chinese counterpart?
- 7. ARE YOU READY FOR CHINA?

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