

## Episode 16

### Cultural Analysis 文化解析

(in the form of a dialogue between a younger brother [B] and an older sister [S] who are college students in the US)

B: You know, Sis, I'm really impressed by how these students in the dialogue plan their Christmas party. They don't waste any time. And they don't fight.

S: Right, not like us. Remember that Halloween party we had two years ago? You were still in high school. We fought over everything. You wanted to ask Grandma over to play a witch! Good thing she was down in Florida. And then you set your pet **lizard** (蜥蜴) loose in the **haunted house** (鬼屋)! How stupid was that?!

B: Yeah, come to think of it, we never did find that lizard again, did we? Well, you wouldn't even let me help make the dance tape. And that stupid **grunge music** (一種美國搖滾／重金屬音樂) you and your friends chose! Like fingernails on a blackboard! And it wasn't my fault when the police came—

S: OOOO—K. That's enough, Squirt. Good thing Mom and Dad never found out. Anyway, remember, we have an audience here, and they want to know something about how to express differences of opinion in English. I need your help. Did you notice how the students in the dialogue make decisions about the Christmas party?

B: Like I said before, they don't fight. Everyone suggests an idea.

S: That's right. They have a "brainstorming" session. That's where everyone contributes whatever ideas come to mind, and then the group sorts through them to reach a decision everyone can accept. And that's called reaching a **consensus** (共識).

B: Uh-huh. And I hope you noticed how they don't **shoot down** (執意否決) each other's ideas. Instead, they ask a lot of questions. If they disagree with something, they ask a question instead of saying, "That's stupid." You might learn something there.

S: Hey, bro, I do ask you questions, like, "**Dude** (喂), how stupid is that?" I also hope you noticed how they each take responsibility for something, rather than asking their sisters to do everything.

B: Hey, now, who's helping you out here?

S: OK, OK. Thanks for your help. Hey, I owe you one.

B: Well, how about doing a Christmas party this year? We can ask Grandpa up from Florida to play Santa, and we can give him a few beers. Then everyone will get something in their Christmas stocking. I still have six lizards left.

S: Oh, brother.

