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# Business Communication: A Functional Approach

Tenth Edition



Sumtum Parisuthiman

# **Business Communication: A Functional Approach**

**Tenth Edition**

ตัวอย่าง

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*Associate Professor*

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# PREFACE

## **O**BJECTIVES

This text has been designed with the aim of helping students develop their skill in the writing of business letters with the following two fundamental objectives:

1. To familiarize students with the conventional forms of business correspondence, and
2. To provide practical exercises using the principles of effective letter writing so that students will be able to apply their knowledge and experience to the writing of actual correspondence.

## **A**PPROACH

In order to achieve the above objectives, a functional approach and the use of a model are applied. Although a functional approach was initiated decades ago, this kind of approach, according to my own experience, is still useful and effective. The main reason is that it helps the writer to envisage an outline before writing his letter. Besides, it is appropriate for Thai students at the university level because it provides a better opportunity for creative thinking and writing. As for the use of a model, according to Ronald White's article: "Approaches to Writing," it is "a natural, respectable and sensible thing to do, and is even more essential when one is working in a foreign language." Consequently, model letters, some of which are taken from actual business correspondence, are presented throughout with a view to acquainting the students with the type of vocabulary, idiomatic expressions and sentence structures appropriate to that type of communication.

## **U**NIT ORGANIZATION

Unit 1 and Unit 2 are somewhat different from the other units. Since letters have formats, Unit 1 deals with letter layout and conventions in both British and American styles. Unit 2 covers the qualities of good business letters because writing a business letter is not like writing a composition where grammar or structure is emphasized. What is more important to business correspondence is the psychological message inserting into the communication and the appropriate choice of precise and accurate words.

Units 3-9 are concerned with various types of letters and memorandums. Each unit is presented with a model letter and followed by questions for comprehension. Then an organizational plan for each type of letter is presented in order to enlighten the students with regards to the function of each paragraph. At the end of each unit, useful expressions, with Thai translation, are provided because one problem for Thai students is that although they may be able to write perfectly grammatical sentences, these sentences may look strange and might not be clearly understood by native speakers. By studying these expressions, even the weak students will be able to write acceptable business correspondence. Besides, various kinds of exercises at the end of each unit are drawn from real life situations and designed to give extensive practice to students for their future careers.

## **A**PPENDICES

Three appendices, which explain some grammatical points and some frequently used business terms, are included for the convenience of the users' reference.

In this tenth edition, the part on facsimile, which is still popular and commonly used in business, has been retained while the information about e-mail that will help the readers comprehend the senders' vocal inflection and emotion conveyed in their messages has been left intact. Moreover, in order to catch up with the fast-developing digital world, I have provided Appendix D, containing a list of popular social media acronyms and abbreviations, for the netizens, who opt for online communication, to save time in their correspondence.

Finally, at the end of the book, an answer key section, where possible versions are presented, has been added as guidelines and the users can write their own versions, based on the examples given.

The author sincerely hopes that this new edition will be of benefit to the readers and welcomes any comments that can be used to improve contents of the book in the future.

①

**GUIDANCE ASSOCIATION**

75 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10017

Tel. (212) 888-1234

②

June 17, 20—

③

Registered Mail

The Best Corporation

④

234 Seventh Avenue N.W.

Seattle, WA 98109

U.S.A.

⑤

Attention: Mr. Robert Walker, Personnel Director

⑥

Gentlemen:

⑦

Subject: The Business Letter

This letter is an example of block form. All of the parts of the letter are included and numbered.

⑧

Although this example shows the date to the right, it could be centered as well. The complimentary close and signature are also to the right, but they could be centered. The dictator's title may be typed on the same line as the name; or if the title is a long one, it may be typed on the line below the dictator's name.

⑨

Sincerely yours,

⑩

GUIDANCE ASSOCIATION

⑪

*David Martin*

David Martin

Secretary General

⑫

DM: deh

⑬

Enclosure

⑭

cc: Mr. Richard Wills

⑮

P.S.

- |                        |                        |                          |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Letterhead          | 6. Salutation          | 11. Signature Bloc       |
| 2. Date                | 7. Subject Line        | 12. Reference Symbols    |
| 3. Mailing Instruction | 8. Body                | 13. Enclosure Notation   |
| 4. Inside Address      | 9. Complimentary Close | 14. Carbon-Copy Notation |
| 5. Attention Line      | 10. Typed Company Name | 15. Postscript           |

### **1. Attention Line**

The attention line directs a letter to a specific person in an organization when the company name is used in the address line. This line is typed below the inside address and above the salutation, and it can be at the left margin, indented with the paragraph or centered, depending on the letter layout (style) used. Remember that the attention line, even if it includes the name and/or title of a specific person, has no bearing on the salutation. The following are various styles of writing an attention line:

ATTENTION: Mr. Charoen Prayoosuk

ATTENTION — Sales Department

### **2. Subject Line**

The subject line helps to tell your reader at a glance what your letter is about. It is typed with the left margin, at the paragraph point or centered, two spaces below the salutation. The word “subject” can be omitted.

SUBJECT: Overpayment of Invoice No. 702

Subject: Our order No. RT-803

Your letter of August 5

### **3. Typed Company Name**

Your company name, if printed on the letterhead, need not be repeated after the complimentary close, except in legal documents. (See also “7. Signature Bloc”)

### **4. Enclosure Notation**

Enclosure notation, typed two spaces under the reference symbols, is used when something is sent in the same envelope as the letter. It reminds the writer and his secretary to make sure that enclosures mentioned in the message are mailed with the letter. Meanwhile, this notation also alerts the recipient to check for enclosures. When more than one item is enclosed, number should be indicated.

## EXERCISES

### EXERCISE 1

#### DATE, INSIDE ADDRESS AND SALUTATION

**A. Directions:** Choose the correct answer and write the letter of your choice in the space provided.

- ..... 1. The correct salutation and punctuation used by Americans is .....
- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| a. Gentlemen: | c. Gentlemen; |
| b. Gentleman: | d. Dear Sirs, |
- ..... 2. The standard form of a dateline in a business letter is .....
- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| a. Jan. 3 20-- | c. January 3, 20-- |
| b. 3/ 1/ 20--  | d. January 3 20--  |
- ..... 3. Of the following, the most formal salutation is .....
- |                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| a. Dear Prasert | c. Dear Khun Prasert  |
| b. Dear Sir     | d. Dear Mr. Kittikarn |
- ..... 4. When an addressee is a company, the appropriate salutation is .....
- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| a. Gentleman | c. Dear Sir       |
| b. Gentlemen | d. Dear Gentlemen |
- ..... 5. Inc. is used by ..... firms instead of Ltd.
- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| a. British    | c. Thai     |
| b. Australian | d. American |
- ..... 6. Which of the following salutations and punctuations is correct?
- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| a. Dear sir, | c. Gentleman:      |
| b. Dear Sir: | d. Dear Gentlemen: |
- ..... 7. If you want to write a letter to a sales manager in a company, the first line of the inside address should be .....
- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| a. The sales manager | c. Sales manager     |
| b. The Sales manager | d. The Sales Manager |

..... 8. Following is the first line of the inside address. Which one is correct?

- a. Dr. Pradit Vachadee Ph.D.
- b. Dr. Pradit Vachadee, Dean
- c. Dr. Pradit Vachadee, The dean
- d. Dr. Pradit Vachadee, The Dean

..... 9. The attention line .....

- a. is necessary for every business letter
- b. directly precedes the subject line
- c. is used when the letter is addressed to a specific person
- d. is typed between the inside address and the salutation

..... 10. A subject line .....

- a. is included in all business letters
- b. is used only when the attention line is not included
- c. is to give the reader an advance notice of what the letter is about
- d. precedes the salutation

**B. Directions:** Rearrange the information given below in correct form for the inside address. Use block layout. Also *correct* the unacceptable date arrangement and *supply* an appropriate salutation for each.

1. September 15 20--  
Thailand / Arzedal (Siam) Ltd. / The General Manager/ 537 / 9 Silom Road / Bangkok 10500
2. 15/9/20--  
Albany / Professor of Marketing / New York 12222 / Mr. Steven T. MaCaughey / State University of N.Y. at Albany / U.S.A./ 1400 Washington Ave.
3. September first, 20--  
8 John Street / London WCIN 2Hy / Macdonald & Evens Ltd./ Great Britain
4. 5 Nov. 20--  
The Businese Editor/ The Post Publishing Public Company / 136 Na Ranong Road / Bangkok 10110 / Bangkok Post Building / The Bangkok Post

## USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

### OPENING

- Mr. .... of your accounting department has told me about the vacancy you have for a correspondent in your sales department. The job sounds very interesting to me and I should like to be considered an applicant for this position.  
(นาย.....ซึ่งทำงานอยู่ในแผนกบัญชีได้บอกให้ข้าพเจ้าทราบเกี่ยวกับตำแหน่งพนักงานโต้ตอบจดหมายซึ่งว่างอยู่ในแผนกขาย ข้าพเจ้ารู้สึกสนใจและต้องการจะขอสมัครเข้าทำงานในตำแหน่งนี้อย่างมาก)
- Mr. .... , who is employed in your ..... department, has told me about the excellent opportunities in your ..... department. Please consider me an applicant for the position of .....
- Will you please consider me for the position of cost accountant about which you recently spoke to Professor .....?  
He recommended that I write to you and apply for the job. (It is at his suggestion that I write to you to apply for the job.)  
(ขอท่านได้โปรดพิจารณาข้าพเจ้าในตำแหน่งพนักงานบัญชีต้นทุนซึ่งท่านได้บอกกับศาสตราจารย์.....เมื่อเร็วๆ นี้ ท่านศาสตราจารย์ได้แนะนำให้ข้าพเจ้าเขียนจดหมายสมัครงานกับท่าน)
- Will you please consider my qualifications for the position of internal auditor you advertised in *The Bangkok Post*, August 20, 20--?
- Your advertisement for a secretary / operator in *The Nation* dated ..... has prompted me to ask you to consider my qualifications.
- I read your advertisement in *The Bangkok Post* of .....for a person to fill the position of ..... . I would like to apply for this position.  
(ข้าพเจ้าได้อ่านพบประกาศแจ้งความของท่านในหนังสือพิมพ์ “บางกอกโพสต์” ฉบับประจำวันที่.....รับสมัครบุคคลเข้าทำงานในตำแหน่ง.....ข้าพเจ้ามีความประสงค์จะสมัครงานในตำแหน่งนี้)
- Do you need a reliable translator with a background of business education and experience? If you do, I should like to be considered for that position.



Answer the following questions:

1. Who wrote this memo?
2. To whom is this memo sent?
3. What is this memo about?
4. Is there any personal touch in this memo?
5. What makes this memo clear?

At present a company is run by a staff of executives who have to keep close personal contact with everyone in their company through business reports. In intercompany communication, there is probably nothing--except conversation--which is more frequently used to transmit ideas than the memorandum. That is why it is often called interoffice memorandum. In everyday speech, it is referred to as a "memo". In fact a memo can be more or less compared to a letter. The main difference, besides the form, between the two is, however, that the memo is written to a person in one's own company, while a letter is written to someone outside the company.

## **T**YPES OF MEMORANDUMS

Memorandums are informal yet official statements of communication within an organization, usually handling business of a routine nature. It covers just one topic and can move in one of three directions:-

- *Downward*--from top management to subordinates. It usually transmits policies, procedures and orders.
- *Upward*--from employees and officials to other officials holding more responsible jobs in the organization. Most of them are inquiries, requests, proposals and recommendations.
- *Horizontally*--interchange of information and ideas between departments or among men on the same level. It is to coordinate the work of the various departments or divisions.

## **P**ARTS OF THE MEMO

The stationery on which memos are written contain printed headings that eliminate the need for formal inside addresses, salutations and closings. Although memorandum forms differ, most of them contain at least four headings: To, From, Subject, and Date. Other headings can be added, for example, Department, Telephone Extension and so on.

### **1. The “To” Line**

The addressee is not usually given a courtesy title, such as, Mr., Mrs. or Dr. It is common, however, to use a title when addressing a person of much higher rank than the writer. Again, whether to use a title depends upon the writer’s relationship with the readers (Superiors or Subordinates) and the degree of informality within that organization. The job title, however, may be used along side the addressee’s name.

### **2. Copy Notation**

The name of the person who receives a copy of the memorandum may be placed below the addressee’s name, but more usually at the bottom left margin. If several people are to receive copies, their names will be placed at the bottom of the memorandum.

### **3. The “From” Line**

Like that of the addressee, a courtesy title is not given to the writer of the memorandum. However, the job title may be included beside his name.

### **4. The “Department” Line**

If the company is large and the job titles are not indicated, there is a chance that the memo may be misdirected. Therefore, it is wise to identify the department from which the memorandum came and to which it goes below the sender’s and the receiver’s names respectively.

### **5. The “Subject” Line**

Stating the subject of the memorandum enables the readers to know at a glance what the memo is about. The wording should be as short as possible but long enough to tell the reader what you are going to talk about in the memorandum.

### **6. The Body**

The body of the memorandum, like the body of a letter, is usually single spaced. If the message is very short, double spacing may be appropriate.



## Other Examples of a Memorandum

### Downward Memo

#### EXAMPLE 1



## **TOYODA (THAILAND) CO., LTD.**

Plant : 2345 Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok 10110  
Telephone 0-2393-7879-85

### **Interoffice Memo**

To : All Foremen	Date : September 20, 20--
From : Yoshida Atanabe President	Subject : Employees Leaving Work Early

During my visits in the past month, it seemed to me that employees in almost all departments began "clean-up and check-in" operations at about 4:40 p.m. When the bell rang at 5:00 p.m., almost all workers had left the plant.

Actually company policy and the union agreement indicate that work on the line is to cease at 5:00 p.m. The financial loss to the company for a 20 minute period, with 1,800 workers, is appreciable.

Consequently, from now on, all of you should see to it that none of your workers leave their work ahead of time.

## Business Communication: A Functional Approach

หนังสือนี้มีจุดมุ่งหมายเพื่อช่วยนักศึกษาไทยให้เขียนจดหมายธุรกิจได้อย่างถูกต้องและเหมาะสมตามความนิยมที่ใช้กันอยู่ในวงการธุรกิจโดยทั่วๆ ไป ทั้งในด้านรูปแบบและเนื้อหาสามารถนำไปใช้ในสถานการณ์และชีวิตจริงได้ ทั้งนี้เพราะเนื้อหาส่วนใหญ่จะเน้นเรื่องที่เกี่ยวข้องกับประเทศไทยโดยเฉพาะ ถึงแม้ว่าหนังสือเล่มนี้เขียนขึ้นเพื่อศึกษาระดับมหาวิทยาลัย โดยยึดแนวการสอนแบบ functional approach ช่วยให้ผู้มีพื้นฐานความรู้ภาษาอังกฤษค่อนข้างดี สามารถเขียนจดหมายโดยใช้ความคิดสร้างสรรค์ของตนเองได้ ส่วนผู้ที่มีพื้นฐานความรู้ภาษาอังกฤษน้อยหรือบุคคลทั่วไปที่ไม่มีประสบการณ์ก็ได้รับประโยชน์จากหนังสือนี้เช่นกัน เนื่องจากมีตัวอย่างจดหมายมากมายหลายแบบ และมีสำนวนการเขียนประโยคที่จำเป็น (useful expressions) พร้อมทั้งคำแปลภาษาไทยไว้ท้ายบทซึ่งสามารถนำมาดัดแปลงใช้ได้อย่างสะดวกและรวดเร็ว

หนังสือนี้นำเสนอรูปแบบการเขียนจดหมายต่างๆ ที่จำเป็นในด้านธุรกิจ เช่น จดหมายเชิญ จดหมายแสดงความยินดี จดหมายสอบถาม การสั่งซื้อ การร้องเรียน การทวงหนี้ จดหมายสมัครงาน การเขียนชีวประวัติ การกรอกแบบฟอร์มเพื่อสมัครงานและศึกษาต่อต่างประเทศ จดหมายสมัครเรียนต่อ จดหมายขอทุนเพื่อศึกษาต่อ facsimile และ e-mail ไปด้วย

### สมทุม ปรีสุถิมาาน

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