

It all begins with context: getting your lesson off to a positive start

Courtesy of <http://www.hongkongtesol.com/blog>

Take our mini quiz!

Look at the phrases below and identify how many different meaning they could possibly convey.

- It's cold in here!
 - A request – It's cold in here (looks longingly at the air con.)
 - A simple observation – Brrrr! It's cold in here, don't you think?
 - A warning – It's cold in here, don't wait too long!
 - Relief – Oh my – it's cold in here, isn't it lovely after the heat outside!

- The police are coming!
 - A warning – The police are coming! Flush the drugs!
 - Reassurance – The police are coming, don't worry, it will be ok!
 - Threat – The police are coming – don't come in!

- Coffee?
 - An offer – Coffee? Do you want any?
 - A question – Coffee? Do we need any?
 - Surprise – Coffee? What? At this time of the day? No way!

- Sorry, I don't have any.
 - Refusal – Sorry, I don't have any, please leave me alone.
 - Apology – I'm sorry I don't have any, I wish I could help you!
 - Denial – Sorry, I don't have any, I don't know what you're talking about.

Did you manage to think of any other possible answers?