# **Contents in Brief**

Preface xv Prologue P-1

#### Part 1 Understanding the Foundations of Business Communication 2

- 1. Achieving Success Through Effective Business Communication 3
- 2. Communicating in Teams and Mastering Listening and Nonverbal Communication Skills 35
- 3. Communicating in a World of Diversity 63

#### Part 2 Applying the Three-Step Writing Process 88

- 4. Planning Business Messages 89
- 5. Writing Business Messages 119
- 6. Completing Business Messages 149

#### Part 3 Crafting Brief Messages 178

- 7. Crafting Messages for Electronic Media 179
- 8. Writing Routine and Positive Messages 213
- 9. Writing Negative Messages 253
- 10. Writing Persuasive Messages 293

#### Part 4 Supporting Messages with Quality Information 330

- 11. Finding, Evaluating, and Processing Information 331
- 12. Designing Visual Communication 361

#### Part 5 Planning, Writing, and Completing Reports and Proposals 392

- 13. Planning Reports and Proposals 393
- 14. Writing Reports and Proposals 425
- 15. Completing Reports and Proposals 453

#### Part 6 Designing and Delivering Oral and Online Presentations 496

- 16. Creating and Delivering Oral and Online Presentations 497
- 17. Enhancing Presentations with Slides and Other Visuals 523

#### Part 7 Writing Employment Messages and Interviewing for Jobs 548

- 18. Building Careers and Writing Résumés 549
- 19. Interviewing for Employment and Following Up 581

Appendix A Format and Layout of Business Documents A-1

Appendix B Documentation of Report Sources A-21

Appendix C Correction Symbols A-27

Video Guide VG-1

Handbook of Grammar, Mechanics, and Usage H-1

# **Contents**

Preface xv Prologue P-1

## Part 1 Understanding the Foundations of Business Communication 2

# **Chapter 1** Achieving Success Through Effective Business Communication 3

#### Communication Close-Up at Six Apart 3

#### Achieving Success in Today's Competitive Environment 4

Communicating in Organizational Settings 4
Recognizing Effective Communication 6
Understanding What Employers Expect from You 6
Understanding Why Business Communication Is Unique 7

#### Communicating More Effectively on the Job 10

Connecting with Your Audience 11
Minimizing Distractions 15
Adopting an Audience-Centered Approach 15
Fine-Tuning Your Business Communication Skills 16
Giving—and Responding to—Constructive Feedback 17
Being Sensitive to Business Etiquette 18

#### Using Technology to Improve Business Communication 18

Keeping Technology in Perspective 18 Using Technological Tools Productively 19 Reconnecting with People Frequently 24

#### Making Ethical Communication Choices 24

Distinguishing Ethical Dilemmas from Ethical Lapses 25 Ensuring Ethical Communication 25 Ensuring Legal Communication 28

#### Communication Challenges at Six Apart 29

Summary of Learning Objectives 29 Test Your Knowledge 30 Apply Your Knowledge 30 Practice Your Knowledge 31 Expand Your Knowledge 32 Learn Interactively 33

- Connecting with Technology Is Web 2.0 the Future or the Past Revisited? 10
- Document Makeover Improve This Memo 25

# Chapter 2 Communicating in Teams and MasteringListening and Nonverbal Communication Skills 35

Communication Close-Up at the Container Store 35
Improving Your Performance in Teams 36

Advantages and Disadvantages of Teams 36 Characteristics of Effective Teams 37 Team Communication 38

Group Dynamics 40

#### Making Your Meetings More Productive 46

Preparing for Meetings 46 Leading and Participating in Meetings 47

Using Meeting Technologies 48

Etiquette in Team Settings 43

#### Improving Your Listening Skills 51

Recognizing Various Types of Listening 51 Understanding the Listening Process 52

Overcoming Barriers to Effective Listening 52 Improving Your Nonverbal Communication Skills 54

Recognizing Nonverbal Communication 54 Using Nonverbal Communication Effectively 56

#### Communication Challenges at the Container Store 57

Summary of Learning Objectives 57

Test Your Knowledge 58

Apply Your Knowledge 59

Practice Your Knowledge 59

Expand Your Knowledge 60 Learn Interactively 61

- Ethics Detective How Did "We" Turn into "1"? 43
- Document Makeover Improve This E-Mail Message 46
- Communicating Across Cultures Actions Speak Louder Than Words All Around the World 55

#### Chapter 3 Communicating in a World of Diversity 63

#### Communication Close-Up at IBM 63

#### Understanding the Opportunities and Challenges of Communication in a Diverse World 64

The Opportunities in a Global Marketplace 64

The Advantages of a Diverse Workforce 64

The Challenges of Intercultural Communication 66

### Enhancing Your Sensitivity to Culture and Diversity 66

Understanding the Concept of Culture 66

Overcoming Ethnocentrism and Stereotyping 67

Recognizing Variations in a Diverse World 68 Adapting to U.S. Business Culture 74

#### Improving Intercultural Communication Skills 74

Studying Other Cultures 75

Studying Other Languages 76 Respecting Preferences for Communication Style 77

Writing and Speaking Clearly 77

Listening Carefully 81

Using Interpreters, Translators, and Translation Software 81

Helping Others Adapt to Your Culture 81

#### viii Contents

#### Communication Challenges at IBM 83

Summary of Learning Objectives 83

Test Your Knowledge 84 Apply Your Knowledge 84

Practice Your Knowledge 85

Expand Your Knowledge 86 Learn Interactively 87

- Communicating Across Cultures Test Your Intercultural Knowledge 68
- Document Makeover Improve This Letter 80
- Connecting with Technology The Gist of Machine Translation 82

# Part 2 Applying the Three-Step Writing Process

#### Chapter 4 Planning Business Messages 89

#### Communication Close-Up at The Complete Idiot's Guides 89

#### Understanding the Three-Step Writing Process 90

Optimizing Your Writing Time 91 Planning Effectively 91

Analyzing Your Situation 92

Defining Your Purpose 92 Developing an Audience Profile 93

Gathering Information 94

Uncovering Audience Needs 95

Providing Required Information 95

Selecting the Right Medium 98 Oral Media 98

Written Media 98 Visual Media 99

Electronic Media 99

Factors to Consider When Choosing Media 100 Organizing Your Information 102

Recognizing the Importance of Good Organization 102 Defining Your Main Idea 104

Limiting Your Scope 105

Choosing Between Direct and Indirect Approaches 106

Outlining Your Content 108

#### Communication Challenges at the Complete Idiot's Guides 112

Summary of Learning Objectives 113

Test Your Knowledge 114

Apply Your Knowledge 114 Practice Your Knowledge 114

Expand Your Knowledge 116

Learn Interactively 117

■ Ethics Detective — Am I Getting the Whole Story? 96

- Document Makeover Improve This Letter 108
- Connecting with Technology Create and Collaborate with Powerful Outlining Tools 109

#### Chapter 5 Writing Business Messages 119

Communication Close-Up at Creative Commons 119 Bringing Your Ideas to Life 120

Adapting to Your Au	dience 120
---------------------	------------

Being Sensitive to Your Audience's Needs 120

Building Strong Relationships with Your Audience 126

Controlling Your Style and Tone 127

#### Composing Your Message 131

Choosing Strong Words 132

Creating Effective Sentences 136

Crafting Unified, Coherent Paragraphs 138 Using Technology to Compose and Shape Your Messages 141

#### Communication Challenges at Creative Commons 143

Summary of Learning Objectives 143

Test Your Knowledge 144

Apply Your Knowledge 144

Practice Your Knowledge 144 Expand Your Knowledge 147

Learn Interactively 147

- Document Makeover Improve This Letter 127
- **Communicating Across Cultures** Communicating with a Global Audience on the Web 130

#### Chapter 6 Completing Business Messages 149

### Communication Close-Up at Mercedes-AMG 149

Moving Beyond Your First Draft 150

Revising Your Message 151

Evaluating Your Content, Organization, Style, and Tone 151

Reviewing for Readability 151

Editing for Clarity and Conciseness 156

Using Technology to Revise Your Message 161

#### Producing Your Message 163 Adding Graphics, Sound, Video, and Hypertext 164

Designing for Readability 164

Using Technology to Produce Your Message 168

Formatting Formal Letters and Memos 169

Proofreading Your Message 170

Distributing Your Message 171

#### Communication Challenges at Mercedes-AMG 172

Summary of Learning Objectives 172

Test Your Knowledge 173

Apply Your Knowledge 173

Practice Your Knowledge 174

Expand Your Knowledge 177

Learn Interactively 177

**WANTED TO** 

- Communication Miscues Missing the Message with Prescription Medications 157
- Document Makeover Improve This Letter 161

# Part 3 Crafting Brief Messages 178

#### Chapter 7 Crafting Messages for Electronic Media 179

Communication Close-Up at Boeing Commercial Airplanes 179

Choosing Electronic Media For Brief Messages 180

#### Creating Effective E-Mail Messages 181

Treating E-Mail as a Professional Communication Medium 181 Adapting the Three-Step Process for Successful E-Mail 183

#### Creating Effective Instant Messages and Text Messages 187

Understanding the Benefits and Risks of Instant Messaging 187 Adapting the Three-Step Process for Successful IM 187

#### Creating Effective Business Blogs 189

Understanding the Business Applications of Blogging 191 Adapting the Three-Step Process for Successful Blogging 193

#### Creating Effective Podcasts 195

Adapting the Three-Step Process for Successful Podcasting 195 Assembling a Podcasting System 196

#### Distributing Blog And Podcast Content 196

Publishing Your Content 197 Connecting with Audiences 198

#### Communication Challenges at Boeing Commercial Airplanes 199

Summary of Learning Objectives 200

Test Your Knowledge 201

Apply Your Knowledge 201

Practice Your Knowledge 202

Expand Your Knowledge 204

Learn Interactively 204

#### ■ Connecting with Technology — More Ways to Spread the Message 183

■ Document Makeover — Improve This Blog 190

#### Chapter 8 Writing Routine and Positive Messages 213

#### Communication Close-Up at Cone, Inc. 213

Using the Three-Step Writing Process for Routine and Positive Messages 214

Step 1: Plan Your Message 214 Step 2: Write Your Message 214

Step 3: Complete Your Message 215

#### Making Routine Requests 215

Strategy for Routine Requests 216 Common Examples of Routine Requests 217

#### Sending Routine Replies and Positive Messages 221

Strategy for Routine Replies and Positive Messages 221 Common Examples of Routine Replies and Positive Messages 223

#### Communication Challenges at Cone, Inc. 236

Summary of Learning Objectives 237

Test Your Knowledge 238

Apply Your Knowledge 238

Practice Your Knowledge 238

Expand Your Knowledge 240

Learn Interactively 240

■ Document Makeover — Improve This E-Mail Message 223

■ Communication Miscues — When Recommendation Letters Lead to Lawsuits 230

#### Chapter 9 Writing Negative Messages 253

#### Communication Close-Up at KPMG 253

Using the Three-Step Writing Process for Negative Messages 254

Step 1: Plan Your Message 254

Step 2: Write Your Message 255

Step 3: Complete Your Message 255

#### Developing Negative Messages 255

Choosing the Best Approach 256

Adapting to Your Audience 262

Maintaining High Standards of Ethics and Etiquette 263

#### Exploring Common Examples of Negative Messages 265

Sending Negative Messages on Routine Business Matters 265 Sending Negative Organizational News 270 Sending Negative Employment Messages 272

#### Communication Challenges at KPMG 278

Summary of Learning Objectives 278

Test Your Knowledge 279

Apply Your Knowledge 279

Practice Your Knowledge 279 Expand Your Knowledge 281

Learn Interactively 281

- Document Makeover Improve This Memo 264
- Ethics Detective Did the CEO Soft-Sell the Bad News? 264
- Connecting with Technology Controlling Online Rumors 273

## Chapter 10 Writing Persuasive Messages 293

#### Communication Close-Up at ClubMom 293

Using the Three-Step Writing Process for Persuasive Messages 294

Step 1: Plan Your Message 294

Step 2: Write Your Message 297

Step 3: Complete Your Message 298

Developing Persuasive Business Messages 299

Strategies for Persuasive Business Messages 299

Common Examples of Persuasive Business Messages 304

Developing Marketing and Sales Messages 307

Strategies for Marketing and Sales Messages 307

#### Communication Challenges at ClubMom

Summary of Learning Objectives 316

Test Your Knowledge 317

Apply Your Knowledge 317

Practice Your Knowledge 317

Expand Your Knowledge 318

Learn Interactively 319

- Ethics Detective The Case of Incredible Credibility 299
- Document Makeover Improve This E-Mail Message 305

## Part 4 Supporting Messages with Quality Information 330

#### Chapter 11 Finding, Evaluating, and Processing Information 331

Communication Close-Up at Tesco 331

Supporting Your Messages with Solid Research 332

Planning Your Research 332

Maintaining Ethics and Etiquette in Your Research 333 Familiarizing Yourself with the Subject 334

#### X Contents

Identifying Information Gaps 334 Prioritizing Research Needs 334

#### Locating Data and Information 335

Evaluating Sources 336

Conducting Secondary Research 337

Documenting Your Sources 344 Conducting Primary Research 345

Processing Data and Information 350

Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Summarizing 350

Analyzing Your Data 351

Applying Your Findings 353 Summarizing Your Research 353

Drawing Conclusions 353

Making Recommendations 354 Managing Information 354

#### Communication Challenges at Tesco 355

Summary of Learning Objectives 355

Test Your Knowledge 356

Apply Your Knowledge 356

Practice Your Knowledge 356 Expand Your Knowledge 358

Learn Interactively 358

- **Communication Miscues** The Art of the Question 349
- Document Makeover Improve This List of Interview Questions 349
- Ethics Detective Did You Find the Real Answer or the Answer You Were Looking For? 351

#### Chapter 12 Designing Visual Communication 361

### Communication Close-Up at Stone Yamashita Partners 361

#### Understanding Visual Communication 362

The Power of Images 362

The Visual Evolution in Business Communication 363

Visual Design Principles 363

The Ethics of Visual Communication 366

Identifying Points to Illustrate 370

#### Selecting the Right Type of Visual 370

Presenting Data 371

Presenting Information, Concepts, and Ideas 378

#### Producing and Integrating Visuals 383

Creating Visuals 383

Integrating Visuals with Text 383

Verifying the Quality of Your Visuals 385

#### Communication Challenges at Stone Yamashita Partners 387

Summary of Learning Objectives 387

Test Your Knowledge 388

Apply Your Knowledge 388

Practice Your Knowledge 388

Expand Your Knowledge 391

Learn Interactively 391

- **Ethics Detective** Is Something Hiding Behind These Numbers? 369
- Document Makeover Improve This Report Summary and Visuals 385

# Part 5 Planning, Writing, and Completing Reports and Proposals 392

#### Chapter 13 Planning Reports and Proposals 393

#### Communication Close-Up at Kenwood USA 393

Creating Effective Reports and Proposals 394

Applying the Three-Step Writing Process to Reports and Proposals 395

Analyzing the Situation 395

Gathering Information 398

Selecting the Right Medium 398

Organizing Your Information 399

Planning Informational Reports 402

Organizational Strategies for Informational Reports 403

Effective Informational Reports: An Example 407

Planning Analytical Reports 407

Organizational Strategies for Analytical Reports 410

Effective Analytical Reports: An Example 413

Planning Proposals 413

Organizational Strategies for Proposals 416

Effective Proposals: An Example 417

#### Communication Challenges at Kenwood USA 417

Summary of Learning Objectives 419

Test Your Knowledge 420

Apply Your Knowledge 420

Practice Your Knowledge 421

Expand Your Knowledge 423

Learn Interactively 423

- Document Makeover Improve This Report 404
- Connecting with Technology Proposals Get a Software Assist 416

#### **Chapter 14** Writing Reports and Proposals 425

#### Communication Close-Up at Tellabs 425

Writing Reports and Proposals 426

Adapting to Your Audience 426

Being Sensitive to Your Audience's Needs 427

Building Strong Relationships with Your Audience 427

Controlling Your Style and Tone 427

#### Composing Reports and Proposals 428

Drafting Report Content 430

Drafting Proposal Content 434

Drafting Online Content 437

Helping Readers Find Their Way 439

Using Technology to Craft Reports and Proposals 442

#### Communication Challenges at Tellabs 443

Summary of Learning Objectives 444

Test Your Knowledge 445

Apply Your Knowledge 445

Practice Your Knowledge 445

Expand Your Knowledge 447

Learn Interactively 447

- Document Makeover Improve This Policy Report 433
- Ethics Detective Am I Being Sold or Oversold? 436

#### Chapter 15 Completing Reports and Proposals 453

# Communication Close-Up at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation 453

Putting the Final Touches on Reports and Proposals 454 Revising Your Reports and Proposals 455

Producing Your Reports and Proposals 455

Components of a Formal Report 455

Components of a Formal Proposal 476

Proofreading Your Reports and Proposals 479

Distributing Your Reports and Proposals 481

Writing Requests for Proposals 482

# Communication Challenges at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation 484

Summary of Learning Objectives 484
Test Your Knowledge 485
Apply Your Knowledge 485
Practice Your Knowledge 485
Expand Your Knowledge 486
Learn Interactively 486

Report Writer's Notebook: Analyzing a Formal Report 457

■ Document Makeover — Improve This Executive Summary 477

# Part 6 Designing and Delivering Oral and Online Presentations 496

# **Chapter 16** Creating and Delivering Oral and Online Presentations 497

#### Communication Close-Up at Fitch 497

Building Your Career with Oral Presentations 498

#### Planning Your Presentation 498

Analyzing the Situation 499 Selecting the Right Medium 500

Organizing Your Presentation 500

#### Writing Your Presentation 506

Adapting to Your Audience 506 Composing Your Presentation 507

#### Completing Your Presentation 511

Mastering the Art of Delivery 511 Preparing to Speak 512

Overcoming Anxiety 512

Handling Questions Responsively 514

#### Communication Challenges at Fitch 517

Summary of Learning Objectives 517 Test Your Knowledge 518 Apply Your Knowledge 518 Practice Your Knowledge 519 Expand Your Knowledge 520 Learn Interactively 521

- **Communicating Across Cultures** Five Tips for Making Presentations Around the World 500
- Document Makeover Improve This Presentation 511
- Communication Miscues Recovering from Disasters 514

#### Chapter 17 Enhancing Presentations with Slides and Other Visuals 523

#### Communication Close-Up at Hewlett-Packard 523

#### Planning Your Presentation Visuals 524

Selecting the Type of Visuals to Use 524 Verifying Your Design Plans 525

#### Creating Effective Slides 527

Writing Readable Content 527 Modifying Graphics for Slides 528 Selecting Design Elements 529 Achieving Design Consistency 532

#### Adding Animation and Special Effects 533 Completing Slides and Support Materials 537

Creating Navigation and Support Slides 537 Creating Effective Handouts 540

Practicing Your Delivery 541

Giving Presentations Online 542

#### Communication Challenges at Hewlett-Packard 544

Summary of Learning Objectives 544 Test Your Knowledge 545 Apply Your Knowledge 545 Practice Your Knowledge 545 Expand Your Knowledge 546 Learn Interactively 547

- Connecting with Technology Creating High-Octane Presentations 536
- Document Makeover Improve These Slides 540

## Part 7 Writing Employment Messages and Interviewing for Jobs 548

## Chapter 18 Building Careers and Writing Résumés 549

# Communication Close-Up at Hersha Hospitality Management 549

#### Securing Employment in Today's Job Market 550

Understanding Employers' Approach to the Employment Process 550 Organizing Your Approach to the Employment Process 551

#### Preparing Résumés 555

Planning Your Résumé 556 Writing Your Résumé 561 Completing Your Résumé 566

#### Communication Challenges at Hersha Hospitality Management 574

Summary of Learning Objectives 575 Test Your Knowledge 576 Apply Your Knowledge 576

#### xii Contents

Practice Your Knowledge 576 Expand Your Knowledge 577 Learn Interactively 578

- Communicating Across Cultures Looking for Work Around the World 552
- Document Makeover Improve This Résumé 572

#### Chapter 19 Interviewing for Employment and Following Up 581

#### Communication Close-Up at Google 581

Writing Application Letters and Other Employment Messages 582

Application Letters 582 Application Follow-Ups 587

Understanding the Interviewing Process 588

The Typical Sequence of Interviews 588

Common Types of Interviews 589

Interview Media 590

What Employers Look For in an Interview 590 Preemployment Testing 591

Preparing for a Job Interview 592

Learn About the Organization 592

Think Ahead About Questions 592

Bolster Your Confidence 596

Polish Your Interview Style 597

Plan to Look Good 597

Be Ready When You Arrive 598

Interviewing for Success 599

The Warm-Up 600

The Question-and-Answer Stage 601 The Close 602

Interview Notes 603

Following Up After the Interview 603

Thank-You Message 604

Message of Inquiry 604 Request for a Time Extension 605

Letter of Acceptance 605

Letter Declining a Job Offer 606

Letter of Resignation 606

## Communication Challenges at Google 608

Summary of Learning Objectives 608

Test Your Knowledge 609

Apply Your Knowledge 609 Practice Your Knowledge 609

Expand Your Knowledge 610

Learn Interactively 611

■ Communicating Across Cultures — Successfully Interviewing Across Borders 593

■ Communication Miscues — Make Sure You Don't Talk Yourself Right out of a Job 600

■ Document Makeover — Improve This Letter 605

#### Appendix A Format and Layout of Business Documents A-1

First Impressions A-1

Paper A-1 Customization A-1

Appearance A-1 Letters A-2

Standard Letter Parts A-2 Additional Letter Parts A-8

Letter Formats A-10

Envelopes A-12

Addressing the Envelope A-12 Folding to Fit A-14

International Mail A-14 Memos A-16 E-Mail A-17

Header A-17 Body A-18

Reports A-19 Margins A-19

Headings A-19 Spacing and Indentions A-19 Page Numbers A-20

# Appendix B Documentation of Report Sources A-21

Chicago Humanities Style A-21 In-Text Citation—Chicago Humanities Style A-21 Bibliography—Chicago Humanities Style A-22 APA Style A-24 In-Text Citation—APA Style A-24

List of References—APA Style A-24 MLA Style A-24 In-Text Citation—MLA Style A-24 List of Works Cited-MLA Style A-24

Appendix C Correction Symbols A-27 Content and Style A-27 Grammar, Mechanics, and Usage A-28

Proofreading Marks A-29

Video Guide VG-1

Ethical Communication VG-1 Learning Objectives VG-1

Background Information VG-1 The Video VG-1

Learning to Listen: Second City Communications VG-1 Learning Objectives VG-1 Background Information VG-2

The Video VG-2 Communicating in the Global Workplace VG-2 Learning Objectives VG-2

Background Information VG-2 The Video VG-2

#### Impact of Culture on Business: Spotlight on Latin America VG-3

Learning Objectives VG-3

Background Information VG-3

The Video VG-3

#### Technology and the Tools of Communication VG-4

Learning Objectives VG-4 Background Information VG-4

The Video VG-4

#### Effective Oral Presentations VG-4

Learning Objectives VG-4

Background Information VG-4 The Video VG-4

#### Interviewing Skills VG-5

Learning Objectives VG-5

Background Information VG-5

The Video VG-5

#### Handbook of Grammar, Mechanics, and Usage H-1

Diagnostic Test of English Skills H-1

Assessment of English Skills H-2

Essentials of Grammar, Mechanics, and Usage H-2 1.0 GRAMMAR H-3

1.1 Nouns H-3

1.2 Pronouns H-4
1.3 Verbs H-6
1.4 Adjectives H-8
1.5 Adverbs H-9
1.6 Other Parts of Speech H-10

- 2.0 PUNCTUATION H-14
- 2.1 Periods H-15
- 2.2 Question Marks H-15
- 2.3 Exclamation Points H-15
- 2.4 Semicolons H-15
- 2.5 Colons H-15
- 2.6 Commas H-15
- 2.7 Dashes H-16
- 2.8 Hyphens H-17
- 2.9 Apostrophes H-17
- 2.10 Quotation Marks H-17
- 2.11 Parentheses and Brackets H-18
- 2.12 Ellipses H-18
- 3.0 MECHANICS H-18
- 3.1 Capitalization H-18
- 3.2 Underscores and Italics H-20
- 3.3 Abbreviations H-203.4 Numbers H-20
- 3.5 Word Division H-21
- 4.0 VOCABULARY H-21
- 4.1 Frequently Confused Words H-21
- 4.2 Frequently Misused Words H-22
- 4.3 Frequently Misspelled Words H-23
- 4.4 Transitional Words and Phrases H-24

#### References R-1

#### **Acknowledgments AC-1**

Brand, Company, Name, Organization, and Website Index I-1 Subject Index I-4