This short paper begins with effective communications principles in contemporary multicultural and multinational classrooms and differing national and personal styles of discourse, and proposes their broader application to e-learning environments.

It examines several instances of their embodiment in sound screen and website interface design principles.

The paper closes on some design issues for new technologies (beyond the desktop Web browser) that will impact learning, stimulated by the author’s Summer 2002 semester as an exchange professor in Japan.

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