Pragmatics in Our Daily Life

It’s a really normal things that we always use some default modes of speaking to reach the goal of having communication, which is called pragmatic use of language. Strictly, we learnt that pragmatics is the study of the effect that language has on human perceptions and behaviors, which tells us how speakers use the language to reach successful communication.

There are my few daily examples for helping us to have better understanding of pragmatics. First one is that a child want to eat candies so he points to the candies and asks his mother what they are. Obviously, the child knows what they are, but he asks for answer instead of expressing his desire directly. And if he is a baby who cannot understand what candies are totally, his question must not be the expression of wanting candies. So we can see that pragmatics shows that same expression can include various meanings in different backgrounds. Second one is that we always greet with “Have you eaten?”, but we usually not really want to ask whether you have eaten or not because that it is just a greeting to show our friendly attitude.

All in all, pragmatics is a subject which can be widely used in our daily life and we cannot live without it.