

BANK ROBBER *Standing outside the bank.* Stick 'em up! Reach for the sky! No, no, that's too American. I wonder if you could possibly put your hands in the air? No, no, that's too British. I suppose they do speak English in the banks here.
He enters bank.

CLERK Do you speak English?

BANK ROBBER Of course, my friend. And French, German, Spanish, Italian, Serbo-Croat...

CLERK Yes, good, good.

BANK ROBBER And I am studying Chinese. So what can I do for you?

CLERK Stick them up!

BANK ROBBER Pardon?

CLERK Stick them up!

BANK ROBBER Stick? Stick? That is not a stick. That is a gun.

CLERK I know.

BANK ROBBER Therefore, should you not say: stick *it* up?

CLERK No - 'them' means your arms, not the gun.

BANK ROBBER Oh, I am so sorry - a simple mistake to make.

CLERK So, I put my hands up in the air, and now?

BANK ROBBER Give me the money!

CLERK My friend, first you tell me to put my hands in the air and now you tell me to give you the money?

BANK ROBBER Yes, that's right.

CLERK Do you not agree this is a little difficult?

BANK ROBBER Well, it's not very easy for me, you know.

CLERK Of course not. But why are we doing all this?

BANK ROBBER I'm robbing the bank.

CLERK Oh, my friend, why did you not say so in the beginning? There's no need for all these hands in the air and the gun - we are a very civilized country; please fill in this form.

BANK ROBBER Fill in this form?

CLERK Yes, this is the correct way to do business nowadays.

BANK ROBBER But I haven't got a pen - I only brought the gun.

CLERK Really, you must be more efficient.

BANK ROBBER I will lend you mine - if you promise to give it back.

CLERK You don't think I'd steal it, do you?

BANK ROBBER Of course not, my friend. *Phone rings.* Please excuse me. Yes? A man with a gun and a large bag? Just a moment, I will see if he is here. No, he's not here... Oh, how silly of me - here he is, right in the front of me. It's for you.

BANK ROBBER For me? Hello! Oh, hello dear. I thought I told you not to 'phone me at work. No, not yet. Because I haven't got a pen.

CLERK Yes, of course I've got my gun.

BANK ROBBER Please, you are pointing the gun at me.

CLERK Oh. I'm sorry. Yes, yes, I'll get the sausages, and the cheese. No, I won't forget the wine. Yes, dear. 'Bye dear. No, I won't be home late. 'Bye. Now, here is the form.