Welcome to Chemistry Café. This column provides tips and tools to help you communicate effectively about your work, research, studies, or activities and public engagement. Our goal is to help you tell your story about science and, in the process, put a human face on chemistry. Each column covers one topic. Let us know how we can support you by sending questions, suggestions and feedback to chemistrycafe@acs.org.

10 international business phrases to know
By Angie Abraham

Have you ever heard a statement like this in the workplace?

“The team had a deep dive today. There was a lot to unpack, and we had to be sure the project was in our wheelhouse. We found that there were a lot of moving parts, so before the decision was made to take the conversation offline, we had to close the loop with our partners.”

Business buzzwords and jargon like these are becoming more and more commonplace in the office environment. Linguistics experts consider the use of corporate speak as means to convey rightful inclusion in a social group or organization. By using this insider language, we are inherently asserting our role in the workplace. This may explain why business jargon and cliché buzzwords have long been a part of office culture all over the world. A list compiled by language learning app Babbel, provides a glimpse into the workplace lingo of other countries. Here are 10 international business phrases to know:

1. **France**  
   Phrase: “Vouloir le beurre et l’argent du beurre”  
   Translation: “Wanting the butter and the butter’s money”  
   Meaning: Wanting to keep everything for oneself without leaving anything for others

2. **Belgium**  
   Phrase: “De kogel is door de kerk”  
   Translation: “The bullet is through the church”  
   Meaning: The decision has been made

3. **Greece**  
   Phrase: “Του έψησε το ψάρι στα χείλη”  
   Translation: “He cooked the fish on his lips”  
   Meaning: He made his life difficult

4. **Sweden**  
   Phrase: “Glida in på en räkmacka”  
   Translation: “Sliding in on a shrimp sandwich”  
   Meaning: To have things easy; to succeed without having to work hard

5. **Netherlands**  
   Phrase: “Water naar de zee dragen”  
   Translation: “Carrying water to the sea”  
   Meaning: A futile activity

6. **Germany**  
   Phrase: “Jetzt’s geht’s um die Wurst!”  
   Translation: “Now it is about the sausage!”  
   Meaning: The final stages of a project/the moment when it counts

7. **Poland**  
   Phrase: “Co ma piernik do wiatraka?”
Translation: “What does gingerbread have to do with a windmill?”
Meaning: What does one task have to do with another?

8. Indonesia
Phrase: “Asal bapak senang”
Translation: “Keeping Father happy”
Meaning: Hiding bad news from the boss; being a ‘yes-man’

9. Norway
Phrase: “Det gikk litt fort i svingene”
Translation: “The speed was too high in the turns”
Meaning: Making mistakes by rushing to get a task done

10. Brazil
Phrase: “Brilho no olho”
Translation: “Gleam in the eye”
Meaning: Dedication to work; great passion about what one does