Personal

1. A Latina woman is approached in the jewelry department at an upscale department store and asked if she needs help finding the right department.
2. An Asian American woman is asked by a man on the street where she is from. When she replies that she was born in the US, the man gets very belligerent and says in the same breath, “You know what I meant! I wasn’t trying to be racist! You people should just go back to where you’re from!
3. An Indian American being asked if it was really hard for his grandparents who immigrated here to not know English and get by (when they actually immigrated to study for a PhD at a state university - and knew fluent English).
4. An older white male who was waiting for his wife to finish shopping begins a conversation with the Latina sales woman. Mid-conversation he looks at her and says “What are you?” Not really understanding his question she says, “Excuse me?” He says “What are you, where from?” “Oh”, she says, “I was born here, my parents are from Mexico…I’m Mexican ” The man says, “Well you sure are pretty for being one.”
5. An African American college student in a large lecture hall is singled out by the professor and asked to comment on how African Americans feel about the issue being discussed.
6. An Asian American woman is told by an acquaintance, “Mandarin just sounds so weird. It sounds like gibberish.” The acquaintance then goes on to make sing-song, ching-chong sounds.
7. A Latina woman at the playground with her light skinned daughter is approached by a white woman and asked, “How long have you been nannying?”
8. At an OBGYN appointment to request being put on “the pill” (birth control) to help ease her menstrual cramping, a young black woman is told by her gynecologist, “Now you know, this doesn’t give you a license to sleep around. You can still get STDs if you’re not using a condom.”

Professional

1. An Indian American correcting a coworker's pronunciation of her name, is told that she should change her name since it's too hard to say.
2. At the bar with several new co-workers, an African American woman is told that she is beautiful and asked what her nationality is. When she tells her co-worker, a white man, that she is African-American, he asks, “But what are you mixed with? Who is white? Your mom or your dad?”
3. An African American program officer is approached by an older white man at a foundation reception and asked to bring him another cocktail.
4. At a site visit, after several phone conversations and email exchanges, a foundation rep walks past the American Indian Executive Director of a new nonprofit, extends her hand to the ED’s white Program Coordinator and says, you must be “Donna” (the ED’s name).
5. A Latina working at a large foundation, assumed to be part of the office cleaning crew, is approached by a colleague and asked if she could refill the toilet paper in the ladies room.
6. An Asian American man interviewing for a job is told, “Wow, your name is very…American.”
7. Leaving work late one evening, an African American man walks to the elevator to where a middle aged white woman is waiting as well. As he stands for the elevators, the woman looks over at him and then takes her purse from her shoulder and places it cross-bodied across her chest.
8. An Indian American woman is told she must be so much more comfortable when she wears her "native outfits" and it must be really hard to go to work wearing western clothes - even though she grew up here, wearing the same things this person presumably did.