

5 Crossing cultures

1 WORD POWER *Culture shock*

A These words are used to describe how people sometimes feel when they live in a foreign country. Which are positive (**P**)? Which are negative (**N**)?

anxious	embarrassed	insecure
comfortable	enthusiastic	nervous
confident	excited	uncertain
curious	fascinated	uncomfortable
depressed	homesick	worried



anxious

B Group work Do you live (or would you like to live) in a foreign country? How did you feel (or would you feel) about moving there?

"I think I'd be nervous and feel a little uncertain, but I'd be enthusiastic, too!"

2 PERSPECTIVES *If I moved to a foreign country ...*

A Listen to the people talk about moving to a foreign country. Would you have any of the same concerns?

- "One thing I'd really miss is my mom's cooking."
- "I'd be uncertain about the local food. I might not like it."
- "Getting used to different customs might be difficult at first."
- "My room at home is the thing that I'd miss the most. I'd be homesick."
- "Communicating in a new language is something I'd be anxious about."
- "Moving to a country with a very different climate could be a challenge."
- "I'd be worried about getting sick and not knowing how to find a good doctor."
- "Something I'd be nervous about is making new friends, especially in a foreign language."



B Rank each concern in part A from 1 to 5. What is your biggest concern? Tell the class.

- 1 = Confident. I wouldn't be worried about this at all.
- 2 = Comfortable. I think this would be OK.
- 3 = Uncertain. This might be a problem for me.
- 4 = Insecure. This would make me nervous.
- 5 = Anxious. I would really be uncomfortable about this.

3 GRAMMAR FOCUS

Noun phrases containing relative clauses

As a subject

One thing (that) I'd really miss is my mom's cooking.

Something (that) I'd be nervous about is making new friends.

Two people (who/that) I'd e-mail every day are my parents.

As an object

My mom's cooking is **one thing (that) I'd really miss**.

Making new friends is **something (that) I'd be nervous about**.

My parents are **two people (who/that) I'd e-mail every day**.

A Complete the sentences about living in a foreign country. Use the phrases below. Then compare with a partner.

my friends trying new foods making new friends getting lost in a new city
 my family my favorite food being away from home not understanding people
 getting sick my room at home speaking a new language getting used to a different culture

1. One thing I'd definitely be fascinated by is . . .
2. . . . is something I'd really miss.
3. Two things I'd be homesick for are . . .
4. . . . are two things I'd be anxious about.
5. Something that would depress me is . . .
6. . . . is one thing that I might be embarrassed about.
7. The most uncomfortable thing would be . . .
8. . . . is something from home that I'd never miss.
9. One thing I'd be insecure about is . . .
10. . . . are two things I'd be very enthusiastic about.



B Now complete the sentences in part A with your own information.

C Group work Rewrite each sentence in another way. Then compare. Do others feel the same way?

1. *Trying new foods is one thing I'd definitely be fascinated by.*

4 PRONUNCIATION Word stress in sentences

A Listen and practice. Notice that the important words in a sentence have more stress.

Argentina is a country that I'd like to live in.

Speaking a new language is something I'd be anxious about.

B Pair work Mark the stress in the sentences you wrote in part A of Exercise 3. Then practice the sentences. Pay attention to word stress.

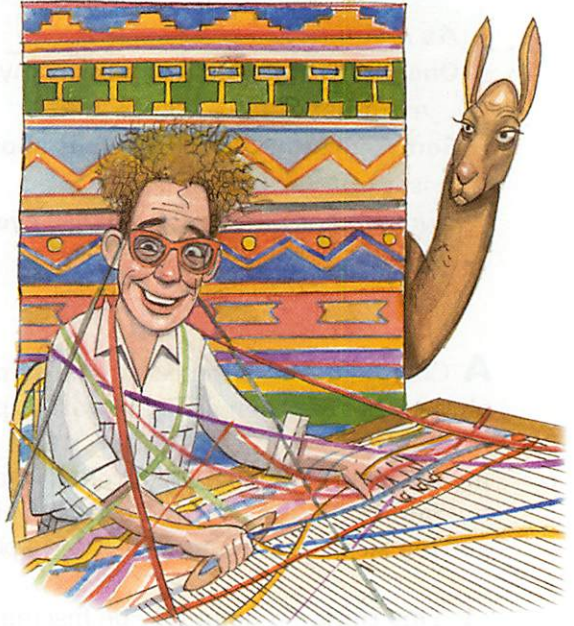
5

DISCUSSION *Going abroad*

Group work Read the questions. Think of two more questions to add to the list. Then take turns asking and answering the questions in groups.

- If you could live in a foreign country, what country would you like to live in? Why?
 What country wouldn't you like to live in? Why?
 Who is the person you would most like to go abroad with?
 What is something you would never travel without?
 Who is the person you would e-mail first after arriving somewhere new?
 What would be your two greatest concerns about living abroad?
 What is the thing you would enjoy the most about living abroad?

- A: What country would you like to live in?
 B: The country I'd most like to live in is Bolivia.
 C: Why is that?
 B: Well, I've always wanted to learn about weaving. . . .



6

SNAPSHOT**Different Customs****Canada**

If you are invited for a meal, you should arrive on time – not early or late.

**Indonesia**

Never point to anything with your foot.

**France**

When eating out, keep both hands on or above the table.

**South Korea**

Always use both hands to pass something to an older person.

**Egypt**

Don't eat anything with your left hand.

**Thailand**

Never touch anyone – especially a child – on the head.

Source: *Kiss, Bow, or Shake Hands*

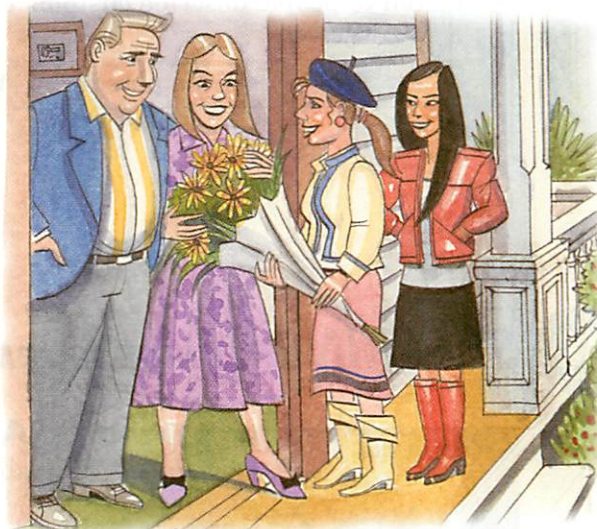
- Does your culture follow any of these customs?
 Do any of these customs seem unusual to you? Explain.
 What other interesting customs do you know?
 What customs should a visitor to your country know about?

7

CONVERSATION What's the custom?

A Listen and practice.

Marta: Guess what! I just got invited to my teacher's house for dinner.
 Karen: Oh, how nice!
 Marta: Yes, but what do you do here when you're invited to someone's house?
 Karen: Well, it's the custom to bring a small gift.
 Marta: Really? Like what?
 Karen: Oh, maybe some flowers or chocolates.
 Marta: And is it all right to bring a friend along?
 Karen: Well, if you want to bring someone, you're expected to call first and ask if it's OK.



B Class activity Are any of these customs the same in your country?

8

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Expectations

When you visit someone, **it's the custom to** bring a small gift.
 you **aren't supposed to** arrive early.
 If you want to bring someone, you're **expected to** call first and ask.
 you're **supposed to** check with the host.
it's not acceptable to arrive without calling first.

A Match information in columns A and B to make sentences about customs in the United States and Canada. Then compare with a partner.

A

1. If you plan to visit someone at home,
2. If you've been to a friend's home for dinner,
3. When you have been invited to a wedding,
4. When you go out on a date,
5. If the service in a restaurant is good,
6. When you meet someone for the first time,

B

- a. you're supposed to call first.
- b. you're expected to leave a tip.
- c. you aren't supposed to kiss him or her.
- d. you're expected to respond in writing.
- e. it's the custom to call and thank him or her.
- f. it's acceptable to share the expenses.

B Group work How are the customs in part A different in your country?

C Complete these sentences with information about your country or a country you know well. Then compare with a partner.

1. In . . . , if people invite you to their home, . . .
2. When you go out with friends for dinner, . . .
3. If a friend gets engaged to be married, . . .
4. When a relative has a birthday, . . .
5. If a friend is in the hospital, . . .
6. When someone is going to have a baby, . . .

9 LISTENING Unique customs

▶ Listen to people describe customs they observed abroad. Complete the chart.

	Where was the person?	What was the custom?	How did the person react?
1. Alice
2. John
3. Susan

10 SPEAKING Things to remember



Canadian doctor in Nepal

A Pair work What should a visitor to your country know about local customs? Make a list. Include these points.

dressing appropriately	giving and receiving gifts
staying in someone's home	taking photographs
traveling by bus or train	shopping

B Class activity Compare your lists around the class. Do any of your classmates' customs surprise you?

useful expressions

One of the most important things to remember is . . .
 Another thing to keep in mind is . . .
 One thing visitors often don't realize is . . .

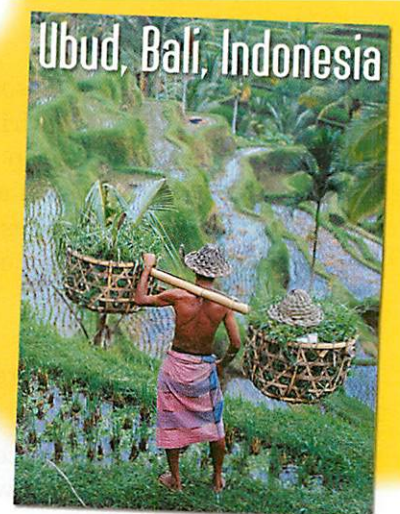
11 WRITING A tourist pamphlet

A Choose five points from the list you made in Exercise 10. Use them to write a tourist pamphlet for your country.

Tips for Travelers

When you visit Indonesia, there are some important things you should know. For example, if you are visiting a mosque or temple, it's not acceptable to take photographs. Also, you are supposed to . . .

B Pair work Read your partner's pamphlet. Would a visitor to that country have all the information he or she needs?



12 INTERCHANGE 5 Culture check

Compare customs in different countries. Go to Interchange 5.

Culture Shock

What kinds of experiences can you gain from traveling to and living in other cities?

Kit-ken Lim, a student from Taipei, Taiwan, is studying in Chicago. The following excerpts are taken from her journal during her first month in the United States.



August 31

People often refer to Taipei as "The Sleepless City," but I didn't understand why until I got to Chicago. I was window-shopping with another student this evening when suddenly the store owners along the street started pulling down their gates and locking their doors. Soon the whole street was closed, even though it was still light out. This is something I've never seen in Taiwan, where the busiest streets "stay awake" all night. You can go out to restaurants, stores, and movies even long after midnight.

September 5

After the first week of class, I've found some differences between Taiwanese students and American students. Whenever a teacher asks a question, my classmates blurt out their answers almost immediately. And some of them interrupt the teacher. In Taipei, we're usually quiet in class so the teacher can finish on time. We tend to ask the teacher questions afterward. I don't know whether it's acceptable here for students to ask teachers questions after class.

October 6

I met a really interesting girl in my neighborhood café. I was writing a letter to my mother, and she asked me what language I was writing in. We ended up talking for about an hour! People in Chicago seem very comfortable with each other. It seems quite natural for two people to just start talking in a café. This is something that doesn't happen in Taipei. At home, I would never just start chatting with a stranger. I like that it's easy to meet new people here.

A Read the article. Then match each journal entry with its main idea.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. August 31 | a. People in Taipei tend to be more private than in Chicago. |
| 2. September 5 | b. Business hours in Chicago are much shorter than in Taipei. |
| 3. October 6 | c. American students are more outspoken than Taiwanese students. |

B Complete the chart.

	Chicago	Taipei
1. When does the city shut down?
2. How do students behave in class?
3. How do people act toward strangers?

C Pair work How do things in your city compare with Taipei? with Chicago?