

Topic: Hospitality

Let's get started... Hospitality means receiving guests. A host shows hospitality by giving an invitation, serving a meal or offering a place to stay. A guest receives hospitality from a host by accepting an invitation, a meal or a place to stay. Hosts and guests follow customs or rules for giving and receiving hospitality.

Background: Hospitality is very important in many cultures of the world. In past generations, hospitality was given to strangers because there were not very many inns (hotels or motels) for a traveler. Sales people, teachers, singers and musicians would go on the road, far from home, and need food and a place to stay. In many cultures today, hospitality is very important. It might even be a duty. People may invite strangers to their homes, offer them food, give them shelter for the night, and even give them transportation to wherever they need to go. In some cultures good hosts must feed their guests too much food. (And this may mean that a good guest must overeat to make the host happy!)

Today, hospitality also means inviting friends and family to your home for a meal or a visit. The "hospitality industry" means restaurants, hotels, motels, resorts, clubs and any kind of service to tourists. The main industry in some countries is hospitality.



In pairs for 5 minutes, fill in the grid below:

Look at the behaviors of hosts and guests below. Write your name in each box that applies to you for each behavior (always, often, sometimes, seldom, or never).

As a guest,	Always	Often	Some-times	Seldom	Never
I eat too much					
I help in the host's kitchen					
I wait to eat until the host offers many times					
As a host,					
I make too much food					
I invite strangers into my home					
I want my guest to stay for more than 2 hours					

Share your partner's answers with the group.

Discussion Questions:

How do people show hospitality in your home culture? (Do you invite friends to eat at a restaurant? Do you invite them to eat in your home? Do you invite them to a sports or music event?)

When you invite someone to a party at your home or in a restaurant is it polite for them to arrive early, at the time you have told them, or after that time?

How long should a guest stay at your house if you invite them for dinner, lunch or breakfast? What do you do if they stay too late? What do you do if they want to leave too early? Give examples of guests who stayed too late or left too early.

In your home country is food always part of hospitality? If yes, what kind of food, and who prepares it? Is it impolite for a guest to refuse food? Explain. Is it necessary to refuse food several times before accepting it? Give examples of what is polite in your home culture.

What kind of hospitality does **not** involve food?

When you are invited to a private home as a guest, what are some of the customs you follow to be a good guest or a polite guest?

When you are the host and invite people to your home, what are some of the customs you follow to be a good host?

How do you invite people – in person, by letter, by phone call or by email?

What are some common occasions for hospitality in your home culture? (Examples: weddings, funerals, new babies, holidays, graduations or other celebrations)

In your home country is it okay to invite a stranger to your home? Why or why not?

Was there ever a time when you were a stranger and someone showed hospitality to you? Tell about it.

Tell about a favorite memory when you were a host.

Tell about a favorite memory when you were a guest.

One person said “hospitality is at the heart of who I am”. What do you think this means? Is this statement true of you or of someone you know? Explain or give examples.

New words and Idioms: guest, host, invitation, accepting, stranger, inn, hotel, motel, on the road, priority, duty, shelter, hospitality industry, resort, tourist, polite, impolite, private home, occasion, refuse