

Topic: Relationships

Let's get started...

How many different people did you see or meet today? How did you communicate with these different people? Did you communicate the same way with every person you met?

Background:

People communicate and relate to other people in different ways. For example, people usually talk about personal things with family members and friends. People usually don't talk about personal things with strangers. Everyone experiences many different kinds of social relationships: intimate (for example, your brother), casual (for example, your classmate), and distant (for example, the cashier).



In pairs for 5 minutes, ask and answer these questions:

Talk about how you communicate with:

- Your father
- The post officer
- Your child's teacher
- The bank teller
- The police

What do you talk about with these people?

How do you speak to these people differently?



Share your partner's answers with the group.

Discussion Questions:

In your native country, do you speak with family members the same way you speak with strangers?

Is social hierarchy important in your native country?

If you are waiting in line at the bank, do you talk to the other people waiting in line?

Which do you prefer: to have a few close friends or many acquaintances?

In your native country, do people use body language to communicate?

In your native country, how close do people usually stand when they are speaking to each other?

In your native country, do people usually make eye contact when they are speaking to each other?

In your native country, do co-workers usually spend time together outside of work?

In your native country, do people usually belong to clubs or groups? Have you ever belonged to a club or group?

Is it common for young people to date in your native country?

If you have a conflict with another person, what do you do?

In your native country, is it common for young people and old people to be close friends?

How do you usually express affection? (For example, giving compliments, hugging)

What kinds of nonverbal communication do people use in America? (For example, yawning, smiling, pointing)

What kinds of nonverbal communication would you use if you want to get someone's attention?

In your native country, when you meet someone for the first time, what do you do? (For example, shake hands, bow, exchange personal information)

Do you ever talk to strangers? When do you talk to strangers?

Have you ever experienced an uncomfortable social situation? What happened?

Do you like meeting new people? Why or why not?

New words and Idioms:

Intimate, casual, distant, strangers, social hierarchy, acquaintances, body language, eye contact, co-workers, conflict, affection, nonverbal communication