






Topic: Culture Shock

Keyword – Culture Shock – Living in a new culture can cause strong emotions or feelings. The new culture is strange to you. Maybe you feel happy, then sad. Maybe you feel excited, then homesick, confused or afraid. This is culture shock.

Icebreaker / Mixer for all levels together

Interview 3 people about their native country.

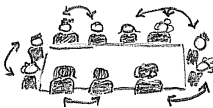
“Did you feel culture shock because of _____”

| Name | the English language?  "Wassup?" | cars and buses?  | food?  | fireworks?  | American families?  | other? |
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Group Talk - Share something you learned about another person in the interviews.

Group Check-in - If you wish, share something about what's been happening in your life. Share results from the 'Keep Talking' activity and Presentations.

Discuss in pairs or in groups of three:



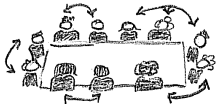
How did you feel when you came to the United States? Were you happy, excited, sad and/or nervous? Give examples.

When was the last time you felt culture shock? Why?

Story: Chun Hei came to the United States from Korea. She loved fireworks in Korea. On New Year's Eve, she planned to watch the American fireworks. It was a cold night. She wore a warm coat, gloves and hat. She brought a snack for herself and her brother. She knew that she would be hungry during an hour-long fireworks display.

At 11:59 p.m., the countdown to the new year began. The crowd counted, "10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1!!!!" and everyone cheered and screamed "Happy New Year!" Then the fireworks began. Wait, what's wrong? The fireworks lasted only 15 minutes! What a shock! Chun Hei and her brother waited for 4 hours to see the fireworks for only 15 minutes. Chun Hei said, "I wish I were back home in Korea!"

Group Talk - What do you think of Chun Hei's story?



In pairs or groups of three, discuss one or more of these questions. Change partners and discuss more.

Did you feel culture shock . . .

- when crossing the U.S. border?
-during your first week in the U.S.?
- during your first six months in the U.S.?
- when you moved into a house or apartment?
-when you looked for a job?
- when you traveled around the area?
- when you started school?

More conversation questions:

- How can people from the United States prepare for culture shock in your native country?
- How did your family members experience culture shock?
- How can people from your native culture prepare for culture shock in the United States?



Role Play: Do **one** scenario in **two** different cultures, to show the difference between them. Practice in pairs or groups and then present the role play to the group.

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| <p><i>Sample Scenario:</i> The teacher is half an hour late to class.</p> | <p><i>Sample Scenario:</i> Many drivers come to an intersection where the traffic light is out.</p> | <p><i>Make your own scenario:</i></p> |
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(For Beginning speakers: Practice a conversation script.)



Presentation - One or two students can prepare a 2-3 minute talk and present it in one or two weeks.

Keep Talking - After Talk Time, ask a coworker, friend or store clerk in English or your native language: "Have you traveled to another country? Did you feel culture shock? What surprised you?" Write down the answers and share them at Talk Time next week.

Internet: A website that explores 8 different cultures:
<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/ontheline>

Vocabulary: (Write down new words in this space)