

Culture and Cultural Differences

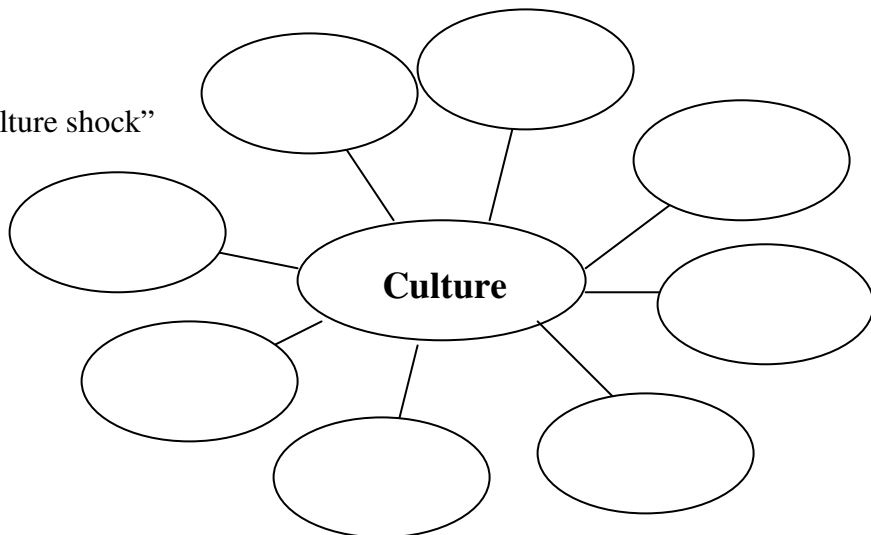
Welcome to Talk Time!

How are you? How was your week?
Discuss the idiom of the week – “Culture shock”

Let's get started

As a group, answer these questions.

- What is culture? What defines culture?
For example, language, music, ...
Write some words in the diagram.
- What do you like about your culture?
- What culture besides your own do you admire? Why?



As a group, discuss U.S. culture and fill in the chart. Then, fill in the chart for your own culture. Then, interview another student about his/her culture. Think: *What is polite? What is rude?*

<u>Culture</u>	<u>Greetings</u>	<u>Eye contact</u>	<u>Personal Space</u>	<u>Time</u>
	How do people greet each other when they meet for the first time? When they see friends?	Do people make eye contact? Do men and women make eye contact?	Do people stand far away from each other when they talk? Do they like to stand close? When is it okay for people to touch one another?	Are people usually on time, early, or late? When is it okay to be late?
U.S. Culture	First meeting: handshake Friends: sometimes hug			
My Culture				
My Partner's Culture				

Conversation skills

As we discuss, let's ask each other questions using the words *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how*. Let's also use the phrase "Tell me more." The best questions are the questions YOU ask!

Discussion:

Discuss these questions as a group.



How is your culture *different* than U.S. culture? How is your culture *similar* to U.S. culture? (Look at the chart on the other side of the paper for help.)

Do you make eye contact while you are speaking English? Why or why not?

Why is making eye contact important in the U.S.? Why is making eye contact important in a job interview?

In the U.S., putting up your thumb means "okay" or "I approve." This gesture is acceptable. Putting up your middle finger is very rude. This gesture is not acceptable. In your culture, what gestures are acceptable? What gestures are not acceptable?

In your culture, what do people think about tattoos and body piercings? What do people think about men who have long hair? What do *you* think?



In your culture, what topics are rude to discuss? Why are they rude? What do people enjoy talking about?

What conversation tips would you give to someone who is visiting your native country?

In your culture, what behaviors are okay for men but not okay for women? What behaviors are okay for women but not okay for men? (For example, is it okay for men to drink alcohol? Is it okay for women to drink alcohol?)



Have you ever felt confused by the actions of someone from another culture? Explain.

Tell about an experience (good or bad) that you have had when talking to an American.

What is the hardest thing about talking to Americans?

What do you like about U.S. culture? What do you dislike? Is there anything you dislike about your own culture?

Are cultural differences positive or negative? Why do you think so?

Group Reflection: What did you learn today? What do you want to talk about next week?