

Cultural stereotypes

Pre-task:

Have a look at the list of adjectives. Choose adjectives that are often used to describe people from your country and the country of your language partner.

Punctual	Outgoing	Hospitable	Aggressive
Tolerant	Nationalistic	Talkative	Polite
Romantic	Well-dressed	Sociable	Rude
Respectful	Humorous	Serious	Arrogant
Hard-working	Lazy	Quiet	Ignorant
Emotional	Sophisticated	Formal	Casual

Task 1:

Fill out the following form: What are some of the stereotypes people have of your country and the country of your language partner? Are they true for you? Discuss your answers.

	Example: USA	Your own country	Partner country
Eats/drinks	Burgers, pizza, fast food; soda		
Likes/dislikes	Like fried food; dislike learning languages		
Plays	Football; baseball; basketball		
Behavior	Loud; very friendly; open; confident; positive		

Task 2:

Are there stereotypes about how people dress in your country?

a) Describe typical/traditional clothes from your home country or region. Do you ever wear them?

b) What do you believe to be typical clothing for your partner's country?

Follow-up activity:

Do you know the joke? Complete the second half of this joke together:

“Heaven is where the police are British, the cooks are French, the mechanics are German, the lovers are Italian and it is all organized by the Swiss.

Hell is where the police are, the cooks are, the mechanics are, the lovers are, and it is all organized by the”