

So many countries, so many customs

Pre-task:

Did you already have the chance to gain experience abroad? If so, compare your experiences.

For example:

Duration and purpose of time spent abroad

Cultural differences

Linguistic challenges



Image 1

Task 1:

Imagine you are living in a country other than your own where you come across cultural differences. How would you react in the following situations? Discuss with your partner.

Situation 1: You meet some colleagues in town. When they see you, they kiss you on both cheeks to greet you.

Situation 2: People seem less polite than in your country. For example, they don't say 'thank you' or 'please' as often as you are used to.

Situation 3: Students are on a first name basis with their university lecturers, rather than addressing each other using surnames. This strikes you as being very informal.

Situation 4: Your friends in your host country seem quite astonished by the number of beers you consumed. It seems as if in your country people tend to consume more alcohol than here.

Situation 5: You invited a few friends to your home, but feel uncomfortable when they start smoking in your flat. In your country it is not common to smoke inside someone's home.

Task 2:

Have a look [at this website](#) which contains infographics on cultural differences between Germany and China.

Discuss with your partner: which differences are these infographics trying to express? Is the culture of your home country is more similar to Germany or China? If you are from Germany or China, comment on how far you agree with the illustrations.

Sources

Image 1

Copyright: College of Humanities, University of Exeter

Link 1

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/10/german-vs-chinese-what-are-the-cultural-differences/>