

UNIT 10

Section A

Language Goal:
Talk about
customs and
what you are
supposed to do

You're supposed to shake hands.

- 1a** What do people do when they meet for the first time? Match the countries with the customs.

| Countries | Customs |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. ____ Brazil | |
| 2. <u>b</u> the United States | a. bow |
| 3. ____ Japan | b. shake hands |
| 4. ____ Mexico | c. kiss |
| 5. ____ Korea | |



- 1b** Listen and check your answers in 1a.

- 1c** Make conversations about what people in different countries do when they meet for the first time. Talk about the countries in 1a or other countries.

A: What are people in Korea supposed to do when they meet for the first time?
B: They're supposed to bow. How about in the United States?
A: In the United States, they're expected to shake hands.

2a

Maria is an exchange student. Last night she had dinner at an American friend's house. Listen and check (✓) the mistakes Maria made.

Maria's mistakes

- _____ arrived late
- _____ ate the wrong food
- _____ greeted Paul's mother the wrong way
- _____ wore the wrong clothes



2b

Listen again. Fill in the blanks.

1. Maria was supposed to arrive at 7:00, but she _____.
2. In Maria's country, when you're invited for 7:00, you're expected to _____.
3. When Maria met Paul's mom, she was supposed to _____.
4. Maria should ask what she is supposed to _____ if she is invited to a party next time.

2c

Role-play a conversation between Maria and Dan. Use the information in 2a and 2b.

Dan: How was the dinner at Paul's house last night?
 Maria: Well, it was OK, but I made some mistakes. I was supposed to arrive at 7:00, but ...

2d

Role-play the conversation.

- Katie: How was the welcome party for foreign students last night?
 John: Great! I made some new friends. But a funny thing happened.
 Katie: What?
 John: I met a Japanese boy called Sato, and as soon as I held out my hand, he bowed.
 Katie: That's how people in Japan are expected to greet each other. It's impolite if you don't bow.
 John: I didn't know that. So I just stood there with my hand out. Finally, I returned the bow.
 Katie: I remember when I first met Marie last year, I did the same thing. I held out my hand and to my surprise, she kissed me on both sides of my face!
 John: I wouldn't mind that!
 Katie: Very funny. Later I found out French people are supposed to kiss when they see each other.



3a Read the following opinions of a Colombian and a Swiss student. In which country is it OK to be 15 minutes late for dinner?



Teresa Lopez
Cali, Colombia



Where I'm from, we're pretty relaxed about time. We don't like to rush around, so we

don't mind if people are a little late sometimes. If you tell a friend you're going to their house for dinner, it's OK if you arrive a bit late. We like to enjoy our time slowly. We value the time we spend with our family and friends in our everyday lives. We often just drop by our friends' homes if we have time. We don't usually have to make plans to meet our friends. When we see each other, it's polite for boys to shake hands and for girls to kiss each other on the side of the face. We often just walk around the town center, seeing as many of our friends as we can!



Marc LeBlanc
Lausanne, Switzerland



In Switzerland, it's very important to be on time.

We're the capital of clocks and watches, after all! If someone invites you to meet him or her at noon, then you're expected to be there at noon. If you're even 15 minutes late, your friend may get mad. So I make an effort to be on time when I meet my friends. I always leave the house early to avoid heavy traffic because I think it's impolite to keep others waiting. Also, we never visit a friend's house without calling first. We almost always make plans to see friends. We usually plan to do something interesting, or go somewhere together.

3b Read the passage again and complete the chart.

| Ideas and customs about ... | Colombia | Switzerland |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------------|
| being on time | | |
| visiting a friend's house | | |
| making plans with friends | | |

3c Role-play a conversation. Student A is Teresa and Student B is Marc. Teresa is late and Marc is mad.

A: Hi, Marc. Sorry I'm a little late.

B: Teresa, you're 10 minutes late!

A: It's just 10 minutes! It's no big deal!

B: Well, in Switzerland, you're supposed to ...

Grammar Focus

| | |
|---|--|
| What are you supposed to do when you meet someone for the first time? | You're supposed to shake hands. You're not supposed to kiss. |
| When were you supposed to arrive? | I was supposed to arrive at 7:00. |
| Am I supposed to wear jeans? | No, you're expected to wear a suit and tie. |
| Is it impolite to keep others waiting? | Yes, it's very impolite to keep others waiting. |
| Is it important to be on time? | Yes, it's important to be on time. |

4a Complete the sentences with the phrases in the box.

be supposed to
be expected to
be important to

1. When you go abroad, it _____ bring your passport.
2. After class, students _____ clean the chalk off the blackboard.
3. If you visit the northern coast of Norway during the winter season, it _____ pack warm clothes.
4. If there are people in the meeting room, you _____ knock before entering.
5. In many eastern European countries, you _____ take off your gloves before shaking hands.

4b Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the words in brackets.

Each country has different rules about social situations. A traveler _____ (not expect; know) all of these, but it is helpful _____ (learn) as many of these customs as possible. One of the best ways to be accepted in a foreign country is to try _____ (understand) how people think. Learning what you _____ (suppose; do) and _____ (not suppose; do) in social situations may be difficult, but it is worth the trouble if you want to understand another culture.

4c Make a list of advice for someone coming to your country as an exchange student for the first time. Work with your group to give advice about:

- time
- meeting people
- table manners
- what to do for someone's birthday
- visiting someone's home
- giving gifts

Section
B

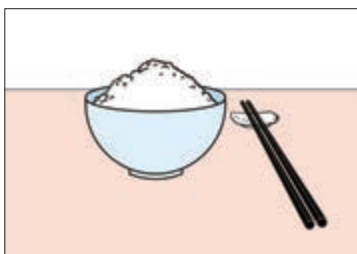
- 1a** How much do you know about table manners around the world? Take the following quiz.
Circle T for true or F for false after each sentence.



Mind your manners!

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. In India, you're supposed to eat with your hands. | T | F |
| 2. In China, you're not supposed to stick your chopsticks into the food. | T | F |
| 3. In Korea, the youngest person is expected to start eating first. | T | F |
| 4. In France, you're supposed to put your bread on the table. | T | F |
| 5. In China, it's impolite to use your chopsticks to hit an empty bowl. | T | F |

- 1b** Steve is going to China to study. His friend Yang Ming is telling him about the table manners in China. Listen and number the pictures in the order you hear them.







- 1c** Listen again. Match these sentence parts.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. You're not supposed to ... | a. stick your chopsticks into your food. |
| ___ 2. It's impolite to ... | b. point at anyone with your chopsticks. |
| ___ 3. You shouldn't ... | c. start eating first if there are older people at the table. |

- 1d** Talk about other table manners in your country.

A: We're supposed to ...

B: Yes, and it's impolite to ...

2a What do you know about customs in foreign countries? What do you think is the biggest challenge when visiting a foreign country?

e.g. My cousin went to America, and she said that learning basic table manners was her biggest challenge. She never knew what she was supposed to do at the dinner table.

2b Read the letter and answer the questions.

1. Why is Lin Yue in France?
2. Does she enjoy staying with her host family? How do you know?
3. How does she feel about making mistakes when she speaks French?
4. What is the biggest challenge she is facing?

REVIEWING

Taking notes or summarizing the main ideas can help you move language from your short-term to long-term memory.

Dear Laura,

Thanks for your message. Yes, I'm having a great time on my student exchange program in France. I was a bit nervous before I arrived here, but there was no reason to be. My host family is really nice. They go out of their way to make me feel at home. The grandmother knows that I miss Chinese food a lot. So she actually learned how to make Chinese food! She also has a teenage granddaughter about my age who is really kind. She always talks to me in French to help me practice. You wouldn't believe how quickly my French has improved because of that. I'm very comfortable speaking French now. Although I still make lots of mistakes, it doesn't worry me as it used to.

My biggest challenge is learning how to behave at the dinner table. As you can imagine, things are very different from the way they are at home. For example, you're not supposed to put your bread on your plate. You're supposed to put it on the table! I thought that was pretty strange at first, but now I'm used to it. Another example is that you're not supposed to eat anything with your hands except bread, not even fruit. You have to cut it up and eat it with a fork. Another thing is that it is impolite to say you're full. If you don't want any more food, you should just say, "That was delicious." Also, you're not supposed to put your elbows on the table. I have to say that I find it difficult to remember everything, but I'm gradually getting used to it. I don't find French customs so strange anymore.

I'll write again soon and tell you more about my life in France. Hope you're having a good school year.

Yours,
Lin Yue



2c Read the sentences and replace the underlined words with the phrases in the box.

1. Making mistakes in French used to make Lin Yue nervous.
2. It was quite hard for her to feel good about speaking French.
3. The host family tried very hard to help Lin Yue.
4. Lin Yue has slowly learned how to be like her French friends.

went out of their way
be comfortable (doing)
gradually gotten used to being
(something) worry (someone)

2d Review the passage and make notes about French customs in the chart.

| Dos | Don'ts |
|---|--|
| You're expected to put your bread on the table. | You're not supposed to put your bread on your plate. |

2e Compare the table manners in France and China in your group. How are they the same or different? Make a list.

e.g. In France, people put their bread on the table. But in China, we always put our food on a plate or in a bowl. We never put food on the table.

3a Your pen pal is coming to China on an exchange program. He/She is asking you about Chinese customs and what he/she is supposed to do or not. Make notes in the chart.

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Table manners | It's polite/impolite to ... |
| House rules | You're supposed/not supposed to ... |
| Going out with people | You should ... |

3b Write a letter to your pen pal to give him/her advice and suggestions on how to behave properly in China.

Dear _____,

You must be excited about coming to China soon. Let me give you some suggestions and advice about Chinese customs. When you're eating at the table, it's impolite to _____

In our house, you're supposed to _____

When you go out with people, you should _____

Have a safe trip, and I look forward to meeting you soon!

Best wishes,

Self Check

1 Fill in the blanks with the words in the box.

worth
capital
basic
traffic
empty
mad
knocking

1. In many countries, it is impolite to show up at someone's house for the first time with _____ hands. You should always bring a small gift.
2. Billy was very uncomfortable at a fine-dining restaurant last night because he didn't know _____ table manners.
3. It is _____ spending the time to learn about the customs of a country before you go there. That way, you will know what you are supposed to do in different situations.
4. The _____ is always the worst in the _____ city. It is important to leave earlier if you are traveling by car.
5. Sandy went into her sister's room without _____ on the door. That made her sister _____.

2 Think about your culture and make statements.

In my culture, when you ...

you're supposed to _____.

you're not supposed to _____.

you're expected to _____.

it's impolite to _____.

it's important to _____.