

# CULTURAL DESTINATION: CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

TRAVEL CONVERSATION

SEMESTER 1, LESSON 001



# TABLE TOPIC

Choose and discuss one of these interesting table topic questions in order to get warmed up for the lesson!

## Table Topic:

What are some cultural differences you are aware of?

## Hypothetical Table Topic:

Imagine a foreigner is visiting your country. What is a cultural difference you would explain to them? How would you explain it?



# IDIOM

Read and practice this useful idiom.  
It's great to use with this topic!

**look someone in the eye** - to talk to someone in an honest way that shows no doubts.

Please **look me in the eye** while we are trying to solve this argument. I want to know you really believe me.



# USEFUL WORDS

Read and practice the vocabulary below.

**bow** - to bend your head or body forward, especially as a way of showing someone respect or expressing thanks to people who have watched you perform.

A **bow** can have a much more complex meaning in Eastern cultures. In the west, it is usually just used for performances.

**nod** -to move your head down and then up, sometimes several times, especially to show agreement, approval, or greeting, or to show something by doing this.

Americans often **nod** at both strangers and acquaintances.

**avert your eyes** - to look away from something that you want to avoid or do not want to see.

**Averting your eyes** can be as a sign of respect or disrespect depending on the cultural and situation.

**make eye contact** - to look at someone at the same time as they look at you, so that you are both aware that you are looking at each other.

Westerners think that people **make eye contact** when they feel confidence easily. A confident person should keep a strong, steady gaze.

**break eye contact** - to meet and then they look away immediately, especially from shyness, awkwardness, or disinterest.

Did she keep **breaking eye contact**? That means she is not interested in going on another date with you, Hal.



# GUIDED CONVERSATION

Use these questions as a guide for conversation. Splitting into small groups for conversation is advisable. The teacher will inquire to see what the students have learned post-conversation.

What does eye-contact mean in your culture?

How do you usually greet people? Do you make small talk?

Have you ever had a misunderstanding because of eye contact? Have you ever experienced another kind of cultural misunderstanding?

What is your preferred way of greeting people? Do you prefer to **bow** or **nod**? Why?

Do you have any strong memories of having to **avert your eyes**? Tell me more.

What is an odd or uncomfortable cultural difference you can't understand?



# ACTIVITY

Use this activity to practice the vocabulary and idioms you have learned so far!

## Speed Conversation:

Example situation: You are at a dinner party in another country. You are meeting someone for the first time. Find a way to connect with them (practice your greetings and eye contact as well).

Students should sit across from a classmate. The teacher will assign a situation for each group of students to talk over. Students should rotate partners every 2-3 minutes.



# HOMework

Homework! Daily practice is essential  
for language learning.

## 1 MINUTE PRESENTATION/SPEECH

Talk about a meaningful or fun cultural experience you've had. Give a 1-minute speech presenting it (after the student is through, the teacher will quiz the other students about the speech so as to test their listening comprehension).



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