

Progress Test

Unit 1

Name _____ No. _____ Class _____ Date _____

Ways to avoid Cultural Misunderstandings When Traveling Abroad

When you travel abroad, you know that it's easy to have your day ruined by a cultural misunderstanding. Here is how you can avoid them.



Do online research to see if there are any gaffes to avoid.

5 In every country and culture around the world, there are certain gestures and expressions that should be avoided in polite company; you don't want to accidentally offend anyone by committing a massive cultural *faux pas*.

In Lebanon and other Middle Eastern countries, for example, you should avoid touching food with your left hand, which is typically used for personal hygiene.

10 In North Africa, you'll want to ensure that you never show the soles of your shoes to friends.

In France, not making eye contact when clinking wine glasses for "cheers" is considered rude, as is crossing over or under the arms of two other people who are clinking glasses.

By doing a bit of reading beforehand, you can appear open-minded and make a good impression to your hosts.

15 Even if you think a particular custom is ridiculous, sexist, racist, or worse, there are some situations where you should suck it up and follow it anyway. In some cases, the last thing you want to do is stand out like a foreigner.

If you're going to a business meeting in China, for example, a woman will deeply offend her male Chinese colleagues if she gets on or off the elevator before them. And in many Middle Eastern countries, men and women don't shake hands, even if they're colleagues. If you're trying to seal a business deal, though, these situations probably aren't the right time to vehemently defend your feminist beliefs.

25 Similarly, out of respect for the locals, eat in private during the day if you're visiting Malaysia during Ramadan, or expect to have a chat with police about what religion you are. Bring your marriage certificate if you want to rent a hotel room in Egypt, or get separate rooms if you're not married. The hotel owner can face fines for allowing you to fraternize, and while you may think you have a "right" to do something, you won't win any points by putting him in a difficult position.

30 The most important thing to remember while traveling abroad is to have some common sense. Making an effort to be nice to locals, to be respectful of the city you're visiting, and to try out the local language will get you a long way, and you'll contribute to making the world a better place where people all over have a positive impression of tourists.

<http://www.lifehack.org/articles/lifestyle/6-ways-to-avoid-cultural-misunderstandings-when-traveling-abroad.html>
(abridged and accessed on 3rd September 2016)

I
READING

A. Choose the correct option.

- 1. “It’s easy to have your day ruined” means that**
 - a. the first day of the trip will go wrong;
 - b. one of the days of the trip won’t be pleasant ;
 - c. a detail can damage your trip.

- 2. What does it mean “*in polite company*” in the 1st paragraph?**
 - a. In the company of other tourists;
 - b. with people who have proper behavior.
 - c. When talking to someone in the street;

- 3. If you research about the country you are about to visit,**
 - a. you will be surprised with cultural diversity;
 - b. you won’t be surprised with other people’s habits ;
 - c. you will surprise your hosts.

- 4. If you go to Malaysia during Ramadan, eat in private during the day**
 - a. to show respect for their religious habits;
 - b. because they always eat at night ;
 - c. to avoid talking about religion.

- 5. How can you leave a positive impression of your country abroad?**
 - a. learning the language of the country;
 - b. showing respect, being nice and speaking their language;
 - c. telling them about your own culture.

- 6. The general intention of the text is to ...**
 - a. help you in your next trip;
 - b. Give tips to avoid cultural misunderstandings.
 - c. Show how tourists are treated by the host countries.

B. Choose the word that best replaces the one in bold in the following sentences.

1. "Do online research to see if there are any **faux pas** to avoid."
a. confusion b. miscalculation c. gaffes d. inaccuracies
2. "By doing a bit of reading **beforehand**..."
a. once b. previously c. afterwards d. therefore
3. "...not making eye contact when clinking wine glasses for "cheers" is considered **rude**..."
a. impolite b. aggressive c. uneducated d. vulgar
4. "...the right time to **vehemently** defend your feminist beliefs..."
a. vigorously b. strongly c. passionately d. intensely

II

WRITING THROUGH READING

1. Write two short text (60 to 80 words) with YOUR OWN VIEW on the following topics presented in the text.
 - a. Explain how being unaware of cultural differences can ruin the way you relate with foreign people.
 - b. Use the information in the last paragraph of the text and say how younger generations can contribute to overcome stereotypes.

III

LANGUAGE USE

1. Choose the word that best completes each blank in the following sentences.

- a. A tolerant society is one which respects all citizens whatever _____ culture.
1. their 2. they 3. there 4. them
- b. Where is our Angolan colleague? I can't see _____ anywhere.
1. he 2. him 3. is. 4. his
- c. Peter and _____ are going to meet at the British Museum.
1. me 2. I 3. My 4. mine

d. The streets in the city of Budapest reflect _____ culture and tradition.

1. it 2. it's 3. Their 4. its

e. This book about the American culture is boring. _____ on British traditions must be more interesting.

1. yours 2. your 3. you 4. you're

2. Fill in the gaps with the verbs in brackets in the PRESENT SIMPLE, PRESENT CONTINUOUS, PAST SIMPLE, PAST CONTINUOUS, PRESENT PERFECT and PAST PERFECT.

a. Cultural diversity _____ (**refer**) to having a variety of cultures or human societies within a specific region.

b. Julie McMullin is the professor who _____ (**research**) on social inequalities for five years.

c. I _____ (**read**) Tom's article about the benefits of diversity when I _____ (**realise**) that I _____ (**not be**) as tolerant as I thought before

d. I _____ (**study**) the importance of stereotypes to include in my sociology project now.

3. Complete the sentences using the double comparative.

a. My Ukrainian friend's accent is getting _____
GOOD

b. Cultural diversity is becoming _____
FREQUENT

c. If you practice a lot, writing expositions will be _____
EASY

d. The number of multiracial couples is increasing _____
FAST

e. It's difficult to adapt to another culture.
Every day immigrants try _____
HARD

Answer key

I = 65 p	
6p x 6	A. 1.c 2.b 3.c 4.a 5.b 6.b
5p x 6	B. 1-c; 2. B; 3. a; 4. c;
II = 70 p	
Open answers	
III = 65 p	
5 x 3p	1. a. 1; b. 2; c. 2; d. 4; e. 1
6 x 5p	a. refers b. has researched/has been researching c. was reading/ noticed / hadn't been d. am studying
5 x 4p	a. ...better and better b. ...more and more frequent c. ...easier and easier d. ...faster and faster e. ...harder and harder