

Social situations – Teacher's Notes

Aim

This lesson looks at table manners in four different countries. Students read an article giving advice to travellers and then they write advice for travellers to their own country.

Preparation

Prepare the cards for the game of charades in activity 4.

Warmer

Write the four country names from the article on the board – Britain, India, Egypt and China. Ask students if they have been to any of the countries. If so, what was it like? Ask students what kinds of food are eaten in the four different countries. This part of the lesson can be done in L1. Write the foods on the board in English. You may get ideas like:
 Britain – fish and chips, roast beef, curries, potatoes
 India – curries, rice
 Egypt – lamb, pita bread, grilled chicken
 China – noodles, rice, chicken
 Wedding – bride and groom, rings
 Birthday – birthday cake, present
 Elicit the English word for the pictures you draw too to expand your students' vocabulary.

1 Reading

- Tell students they are going to read an article about how to behave when you are invited to someone's house.

2 Comprehension

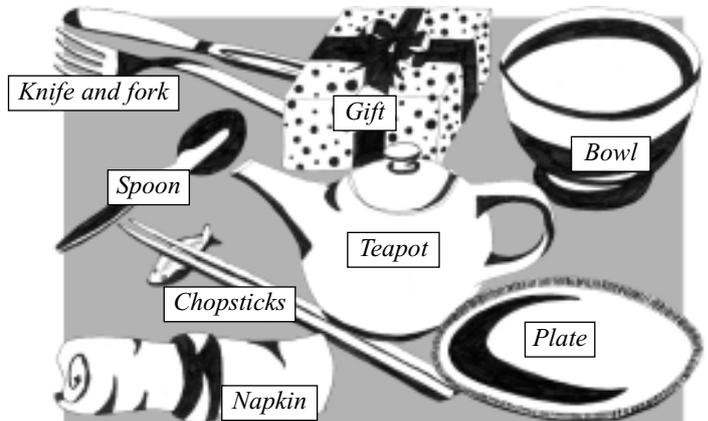
- Students answer the comprehension questions.

Answers

- False – there are two countries in which you eat with your right hand, India and Egypt (this is because the left hand is considered unclean).*
- True.*
- True – this is to show that you have had enough and that your host has provided enough food. If you leave a clean plate, your host may think you are still hungry. In Britain, an empty plate shows that you liked the food.*
- False – it is considered very bad manners.*
- True – it shows an appreciation of the food that you are eating.*
- False – flowers are only for weddings and funerals.*
- True – if you invite your friends to someone else's party it shows that you are good friends.*
- False – people in Britain always say please and thank you.*

3 Vocabulary

- Ask students which part of the teapot is the spout.



Optional

At this point in the lesson you may like to have a short discussion in L1 about the different customs from around the world as students may find it interesting to discuss other cultures.

Information for discussion:

Britain – People in Britain don't like to think about what the body is doing, so you shouldn't speak with your mouth full, make a lot of noise when eating or blow your nose on the napkin.

India – It is usual to arrive late for dinner, being on time is considered rude.

Egypt – Many Egyptians are Muslim and therefore don't drink alcohol. Flowers are for weddings and funerals and shouldn't be given as a gift. Putting salt on your food means that you think it is bland or not very nice.

China – Clocks and flowers are associated with funerals. The number four is similar to the word for death. White paper is also used for funerals, so shouldn't be used for wrapping presents. Chopsticks left sticking up in rice is used as an offering for the dead. It is rude to have the spout of the teapot facing anybody.

4 Game

- Play a game of charades. This is a game in which actions are mimed by one person and the rest of the participants guess which action is being mimed.
- Put the class into teams (maximum of eight students per team). Ask a member from team A to come to the front of the class. Give them a card from the pile you have prepared (see below). They must make gestures to demonstrate the card – remember there can be no speaking!

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culture

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- All the teams are allowed to guess the action – if they think they know the answer, they must bang on the table (don't let them shout out the answers). If you want, you can ask each team to come up with their own team noise instead of banging on the table. Animal noises are quite popular.
- If a team gets the right answer, they win a point. Ask a student from team B to come to the front and give him/her a card. The team with the most points wins.
- To challenge your students, ask them to put their worksheets face down so they cannot see the article they read earlier.
- To make the game easier, go through the phrases with your students before playing the game – you can even write them on the board so they can read them during the game.

Phrases for cards

bring a gift
 use a knife and fork
 eat soup with a spoon
 blow your nose
 talk with your mouth full
 take your shoes off
 burp
 arrive late
 put salt on your food
 eat with your right hand
 drink soup from the bowl
 put your knife and fork together
 leave a bit of food on your plate
 take second helpings of food
 slurp

5 Writing

- Ask students to write down some do's and don'ts for visitors to their country. You may like to put students in pairs first so that they can brainstorm together. This can be finished as homework.

Websites

Here are some websites with more information on many aspects of etiquette in various countries.

<http://www.executiveplanet.com/business-etiquette/Egypt.html>

<http://www.executiveplanet.com/business-etiquette/India.html>

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/behaviourfood.html> – a nice website on British etiquette by children from a junior school in Britain.

<http://www.executiveplanet.com/business-etiquette/China.html>

<http://www.kwintessential.co.uk/resources/global-etiquette/china-country-profile.html>