

culture

Do the right thing – Teacher's Notes

Aim

This lesson looks at culture shock. Students read a text written by a Korean girl who moves to the USA. They then write a piece about an experience they have had related to culture shock and different cultures.

Warmer

The idea of this warmer is to make your students feel like they don't know what is going on – as if they were experiencing culture shock. To achieve this, do things which are unusual or strange. For example:

- come into the lesson and sit down in one of the students' chairs.
- only hop around the room and ask students to do the same – put a book down and ask a student to come and collect it. They have to hop to it.
- ask students to sit on the floor.
- ask students to take off their shoes.
- ask students put their books on their heads.

Do quite a few things to 'shock' your students and then ask them how they feel.

Introduce the idea of culture shock (you may want to do this part in L1). Write 'culture shock' up on the board and tell students that this is what the lesson is about.

1 Reading

- Tell students they are going to read an article about a Korean girl who moves to the USA and experiences culture shock.
- Ask the class about the global reading task – is their culture more like Korean or American culture? Have they ever had a similar experience?
- Note that in Korea the surname comes before the first name – so her first name is Su-Jung and her last name is Kim.

2 Comprehension

- Students answer the comprehension questions.

Answers

- 1 *She liked the supermarkets because of all the different foods and the fact that everything was new and exciting. She also liked the nail polish.*
- 2 *She had a perm and started to wear make-up.*
- 3 *Because boys and girls were kissing in the cafeteria.*
- 4 *In Korea boys and girls didn't kiss or hold hands in public, but girls held hands. In the USA boys and girls kissed each other and held hands. Girls didn't hold hands with other girls in the USA.*
- 5 *She was shy of speaking English and also didn't understand the rules of conversation.*
- 6 *She found it difficult to make friends and to fit in, so she probably didn't enjoy her time at high school.*

3 Vocabulary

- Ask students to complete the sentences with the words in the box.

Answers

- 1 *If you have a **perm**, it makes your hair go curly.*
- 2 *You experience **culture shock** when you go to a new country.*
- 3 *If something is **weird**, it is strange or unusual.*
- 4 *A **cafeteria** is like a restaurant, but there are no waitresses and you have to serve yourself.*
- 5 *A **nerd** is someone who likes to study hard. They are not cool.*
- 6 *If you **pay someone a compliment**, it means you say something nice to them.*

4 Writing

- Ask students to write about an experience they have had in a foreign country or in a different culture (they might have had an interesting cultural experience in their own country).
- If students haven't had such an experience, ask them to write about what life is like at their school and whether they think Su-Jung would find it difficult.

Websites

<http://www.gurl.com/showoff/stories/pages/0,,626129,00html> – website about a Korean girl moving to the USA.

<http://www.uwec.edu/counsel/pubs/shock.htm> – read more about culture shock and what to do about it.

<http://www.computerclubhouse.org/programs/TeensSummit/cultureShock.htm> – a short text about teenagers at a Teen Summit and the culture shock they experience.