

Politeness guess the country cultural training worksheet

Student A/ Group A

Without looking below the place where your teacher has folded the paper, try to guess which country is described here:

- You should never touch someone's head, as it is considered the holiest part of the body. Similarly, you should never point your feet at a person or the statue of a religious figure.
- You should never say anything bad about the king and the royal family.
- Everyone has to stand up before films while the national anthem is played.
- If you are passing somewhere you can see the national flag while the national anthem is being played, you have to stop walking and stand up straight until it is finished.
- People often stand up to give their seat to young children.

I think this country is _____

After you have written your answer and your teacher tells you to, unfold the paper below and check.

-----fold, cover or cut-----

This country is Thailand

Test another student with the same hints, starting with the most difficult to guess from. They can only have one guess per hint. If they can't guess after all the hints, make up your own hints until they do. If you can't think of other hints related to politeness, you can explain where the country is, famous food, etc.

Further speaking

Play the same guessing game with your own ideas.

Politeness cultural differences discussion questions

- Which things surprised you about each country? Are there any you don't think are actually true?
- Which countries are most similar and most different from your country?
- Which ones are also true in your country? Are there any you would prefer people did?
- Do you know any other differences in politeness between countries?
- What manners from your own country might surprise foreigners? Which ones would you explain to someone who was going to visit for the first time? Could you explain why those manners exist?

Student B/ Group B

Without looking below the place where your teacher has folded the paper, try to guess which country is described here:

- You should always leave some food on the edge of your plate to show you are satisfied. For that reason, waiters will often clear your plate before you are finished.
- Some people use religious greetings when meeting people etc. but other people never do.
- Tutting isn't rude, it just means "No".

I think this country is _____

After you have written your answer and your teacher tells you to, unfold the paper below and check.

-----fold, cover or cut-----

This country is Turkey

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Student C/ Group C

Without looking below the place where your teacher has folded the paper, try to guess which country is described here:

- You should pick up the bowl you are eating from, and never eat from a rice or soup bowl that is on the table.
- Pointing with your cutlery or waving it around is considered rude
- Squeaking your bicycle brakes is considered more subtle than using your bell
- If a spare space becomes available on the train people often move away from whoever they are sitting next to.
- You need to check if it's okay to open a present in front of the person who gave it to you or take it away and open it later.
- Presents are usually gift wrapped in shops rather than wrapped at home.
- It is not polite to give reasons for things you have done wrong.

I think this country is _____

After you have written your answer and your teacher tells you to, unfold the paper below and check.

-----fold, cover or cut-----

This country is Japan

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Student D/ Group D

Without looking below the place where your teacher has folded the paper, try to guess which country is described here:

- You should leave your soup bowl flat on the table when you are eating from it
- You don't usually say anything before you start eating
- When you have finished eating you should put your knife and fork together "at 6 o'clock" on your plate
- You usually put your napkin on your lap
- It is polite to check if your guests are vegetarians, have allergies or have anything else they don't eat
- You shouldn't make any noise when you are eating
- It is a sign of good breeding to balance your peas on the back of your fork
- Flashing your headlights is considered more subtle than beeping your horn (although it is actually illegal)
- Reading someone else's paper while they are, for example over their shoulder or reading the cover of one opposite, is considered rude. It is okay, however, to ask to read it when they are finished.
- People usually rip open presents to show their appreciation.
- You always have to say why you did something wrong or why you can't meet someone

I think this country is _____

After you have written your answer and your teacher tells you to, unfold the paper below and check.

-----fold, cover or cut-----

This country is the UK

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Student E/ Group E

Without looking below the place where your teacher has folded the paper, try to guess which country is described here:

- When you want to get past someone on the train you ask them if they are also getting off at that stop.
- You don't have to say please and thank you to a shop assistant, but you do have to say hello and goodbye.
- It is okay to drop your rubbish on the floor of the bar.

I think this country is _____

After you have written your answer and your teacher tells you to, unfold the paper below and check.

-----fold, cover or cut-----

This country is Spain

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