

UNIT 3

Blending Worlds

LESSON 1

Eating Habits and Customs

VOCABULARY

A Four of these sentences have errors. Find and correct the errors.

- 1 I really think you should wear a shirt to dinner with your new girlfriend; you look a bit too informal in that sweater. _____
- 2 Since I've been living in Sri Lanka for so many years, it feels unnatural to eat with a knife and fork now. _____
- 3 You should never point at someone with your foot in Thailand, because they consider feet to be inclean. _____
- 4 Forget it! I really can't eat with chopsticks. It's absolutely impossible. _____
- 5 Mike, don't just get up and leave at the end of the meal! That's very unpolite. _____
- 6 Juan doesn't like going to formal restaurants with his colleagues, because it makes him feel very uncomfortable. _____
- 7 Wow! You have to read this story from the newspaper; it's absolutely unbelievable! _____
- 8 In a formal restaurant, use the small cutlery for your starter. It's incorrect to start with the biggest knife and fork. _____



B Complete the text with words from the box and add the correct prefix *-un*, *-in*, or *-im*.

clean comfortable formal natural polite possible

Thanks to cheaper air travel, the world seems to be getting smaller all the time. These days, it's not

- 1 _____ for someone to travel many times in the same year. However, there are many things that we need to be careful of when we are traveling, so that we don't make people from other cultures feel 2 _____! Here are a few interesting cultural "dos" and "don'ts" when you are going global.

In most places in the world, tipping waiters in a café or restaurant is the right thing to do, but in Japan, it's 3 _____. Why? Because it's a sign of disrespect. It suggests that the other person is just there to "serve" you. In India, people eat and greet with their right hand, but not with the left. The left hand is considered to be dirty, so people think it's 4 _____ to use your left hand for these things.

But many Western countries have "unusual" customs, too. French people always greet each other by saying "*Bonjour madame (or monsieur)*." This seems very formal, but you shouldn't greet someone in a more 5 _____ way unless you know them well. In Norway, people don't normally use their car horns at all, unless there's an emergency. So it's completely 6 _____ to "beep" someone in your car, and it could cause people to panic. Have fun traveling, but don't forget to respect these cultural differences.



GRAMMAR

A Choose the correct options.

- 1 Carla stopped **using** / **to use** her cell phone in the restaurant, because everyone was looking at her.
- 2 Our professor talked a lot about cross-cultural awareness and then went on **giving** / **to give** an example of an embarrassing situation he had been in.
- 3 Thanks for agreeing to look after my cat while I'm away. Please don't forget **feeding** / **to feed** her twice a day.
- 4 My sister didn't like learning Japanese in the beginning, but as she went on **studying** / **to study** it every day, she enjoyed it more and more.
- 5 I was writing an email to my pen pal in Russia when I stopped **to check** / **checking** my social media.
- 6 When I traveled across the USA, I remember **to talk** / **talking** to lots of really interesting people.
- 7 I'll never forget **laughing** / **to laugh** at myself the first time I tried to speak French in Paris.
- 8 You must remember **shaking** / **to shake** hands with people in the USA when you meet them for the first time.

WRITING

A Complete the email with sentences from the box. There are two extra sentences you do not need.

- a I really love the fact that meals are an important part of daily life in Finland.
- b Everyone in my family really loves this kind of food, and we all eat it at least once a week.
- c People in Finland usually have three or four meals a day.
- d We don't normally eat a lot for lunch, but the food is very simple, and we eat things such as dark brown bread and smoked fish.
- e So I'd love to know about mealtimes in your country.
- f It's not unusual for us to have a dessert made from berries called *kiisseli*.
- g But my favorite mealtime is at night when it's time for *iltapala* at about 10 p.m., and this is something light such as ham and cheese.

New Message

Hi Magda,

My name is Anja, and I'm from Helsinki in Finland, but these days I'm traveling around Spain. I love Spain and Spanish food, but I miss Finland and Finnish food a lot. I thought I'd tell you about some of our customs. In some ways, it's different from Spain, and in some ways, it's similar.

1 _____ That might sound like a lot, but we get up early! Breakfast is usually some toast and jam made with lingonberries. I love it, but some people think it's very bitter. 2 _____. We usually eat lunch earlier than most cultures. We eat lunch at about midday—that's definitely much earlier than in Spain! At my family's house in the evening, my brother often prepares the meal for everyone, and we eat early, at about 5 p.m. On the weekend, my mother starts preparing a typical Karelian food earlier in the day. This is food from the north of Finland, and it's like a pie made with pastry and rice inside. We often eat it with reindeer meat.

3 _____ But it can sometimes be a big snack, such as some sausages or meatballs!

4 _____ In Spain, I also notice how important it is for families to come together and eat and share their daily news. It makes me realize how similar many cultures are, despite appearing so different sometimes.

5 _____ Are there any unusual eating habits in your country? Why not send me an email and let me know!

Yours,
Anja

Send