

# Stereotypes

## 1. Complete the text using the correct form of the words

### DO WE SEE OURSELVES AS WE REALLY ARE?

The English are cold and reserved. \_\_\_\_\_ (**Brazil**) are lively and fun-loving, and the \_\_\_\_\_ (**Japan**) are shy and hardworking - these are examples of national stereotypes which are widely believed, not only by other \_\_\_\_\_ (**nation**) but also by many people among the nationality themselves. But how much truth is there in such stereotypes?

A team of \_\_\_\_\_ (**psychology**) have investigated the subject and the results of their research are surprising. They found that people from a particular country do share some general features, but that these features are often very different from the stereotype.

In the largest survey of its kind, the team used tests to establish shared \_\_\_\_\_ (**character**) among forty-nine different nationalities around the world. They then interviewed thousands of people from the groups and asked them to describe typical members of their own nationality. In most cases, the stereotype was very different from the results of the tests, i.e. the reality.

## 2. Fill in each space with an appropriate word from the list

NERVOUS	EMBARRASSED	ENJOYABLE		
BAD-TEMPERED	USUAL	ORDINARY	ANXIOUS	FORMAL
AMUSING	TYPICAL	SHY	AFRAID	
TIRESOME	ASHAMED	SYMPATHETIC		

### CULTURE SHOCK

Penny, a friend of mine, has just got back from a trip to Japan. She had a very \_\_\_\_\_ time but there were occasions, she says, when the rather

\_\_\_\_\_ behavior of her hosts led to moments of cultural confusion, and at times she even felt \_\_\_\_\_ by some of the mistakes she made. For example, it is \_\_\_\_\_ for Europeans to call each other by their first names, but this is not the \_\_\_\_\_ way of addressing people in Japan. Now, because Penny was \_\_\_\_\_ to show everyone how friendly she was, she called everyone by their first name. Most people were \_\_\_\_\_ because she was obviously a foreigner but some became quite \_\_\_\_\_ and showed little sympathy. At first, Penny found bowing to people quite \_\_\_\_\_ as she is an actress after all, but after a while it became a bit \_\_\_\_\_ having to bow to everyone you met. Penny is not at all \_\_\_\_\_ but after the first misunderstandings, she was \_\_\_\_\_ to open her mouth in case she offended someone. I myself am quite an experienced traveler, but I would feel \_\_\_\_\_ about putting my foot in it in Japan because there even \_\_\_\_\_ people observe the most elaborate rules of social behavior. Silence, for example is nothing to be \_\_\_\_\_ of in Japanese culture, but in the West we get very worried if there are even short periods of silence at social gatherings.

