

Reading

- 1 Can you think of the **stereotypes** used about your culture? Use the words below to help.

reserved	warm	efficient
polite	stylish	open
eccentric	punctual	intellectual
organized	noisy	lively
lazy	undisciplined	good sense
imaginative	passionate	of humour
talkative	rigid	
romantic	creative	

- 2 Read the article and decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 You can stand close to an American when you speak to him or her.

- 2 It is normal to shake hands briefly when you meet for the first time.
- 3 Most Americans smile and look at each other when they greet.
- 4 It is offensive to wink in America.
- 5 It is not unusual for an American to ask a stranger about their job.

- 3 Work in pairs. Compare the information above with your own culture.

Project

Choose a country or region where you work or would like to work. Go online and find out how to behave in a business environment. Write a short report giving advice to people working there.

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America

A MERICANS tend to need more personal space than other cultures. If you try to get too near an American during a conversation, they will feel uncomfortable. If an American steps back, then you are standing too close to them.

Men tend to avoid hugging and even women do not hug and kiss as much as many Europeans. Formal greetings in



America involve a quick firm handshake and there isn't much physical contact. However, people smile at each other and make eye contact. Winking is relatively common and means friendliness, or 'I'm kidding'.

When Americans meet for the first time they often ask 'What do you do?' This is a normal question and is not considered intrusive or personal.