

READING

I. Fill in each blank with a word from the box.

simply bow given rather addressing usual *wai* with

Thais often greet one another with a *wai* – a palms-together gesture accompanied by a (1) _____, slight bend of knees and smile. ‘Khun’ is used as a prefix, instead of Mr and Ms when (2) _____ people. It can be used for both males and females. For example, a 30-year-old male, Kullawat Chaowanawatee, will (3) _____ be Khun Kullawat. Every Thai has a nickname, and once you are more familiar with people it is (4) _____ for them to encourage you to call them by their nickname instead of their first name. Most Thai nicknames are single syllable words which are (5) _____ from birth and can be Thai or English words, colours, fruits, or shortenings of their first name.

Thais don’t use ‘please’, ‘thank you’ and ‘hello’. Instead of saying ‘thank you’, ‘hello’ or ‘good bye’, many Thais simply smile or offer a (6) _____ equivalent of ‘please’ in Thai is complex and varies (7) _____ the rank and status one is speaking to. Many Thais ask ‘where are you going?’ (8) _____ than saying ‘How are you?’

II. Read the passage carefully and choose the correct answers.

GIFT-GIVING CUSTOMS IN VIETNAM

Gift giving is important in Vietnam because of the significance of interpersonal relationships in Vietnamese culture.

First and foremost, do not encourage corruption. There is a clear cut between gift-giving and bribery. Nevertheless, it is common in Vietnam for exchanging small gifts on certain occasions such as anniversary, Tet holiday... to express your respect, love, appreciation or gratitude.

Gift-giving customs depend on the context. If it is a private gift for one Vietnamese partner you should give the gift at a private occasion. If you have a gift for the whole office or company, you should give it after the business meeting with the whole office’s employee.

Do not wrap a gift in the black paper because this colour is unlucky and associated with funerals in Vietnam. Gifts that symbolize cutting such as scissors, knives and other sharp objects should be avoided because they mean the cutting of the relationship.

Vietnamese may or may not open these gifts when they are received; leave the option to them. You will also receive gifts and should defer to your host as to whether you should open it when received or not. Regardless of when it is opened or what it is, profuse thanks are always appropriate.

1. According to the passage, why is gift giving important in Vietnam?
 - a. Because it helps to establish a friendship.
 - b. Because it's common in Vietnamese culture.
 - c. Because it's the best way to build up a stable relationship.
 - d. Because personal relationships play a vital role in Vietnamese culture.
2. Which of the followings should not be a reason for gift giving?
 - a. To show appreciation
 - b. To bribe somebody
 - c. To express gratitude
 - d. To show affection
3. When giving a gift, you should _____.
 - a. wrap it in black or white paper
 - b. give it in the business meeting
 - c. never give sharp objects, such as knives or scissors
 - d. avoid giving it at a private occasion
4. When receiving a gift, you should _____.
 - a. always say "thank you?"
 - b. try to find what is it
 - c. open it in front of the giver
 - d. ask your host to open it
5. Which of the following is NOT true about gift giving customs in Vietnam?
 - a. Gift giving is a good way of strengthening relationships.
 - b. Gifts for your partners should be given at private occasions.
 - c. You should avoid giving anything sharp.
 - d. It is considered rude not to open the gift in front of the giver.

E. WRITING

1. Put the words in order to make sentences.

1. If/ a/ should/ Vietnamese home/ bring/ invited/ to/ gift/ you/ a/ small

2. as/ custom/ *ojigi*/ bowing/ in/ Known/ is/ important/ Japan/ an

3. greeting/ shake hands/ when/ saying/ The Vietnamese/ and/ both/ when/ good-bye

4. don't/ wear/ a/ You/ tie/ to/ have to/ dinner party/ if/ want to/ you/ don't/ a

5. taking off/ when/ house/ a/ It's/ entering/ the Japanese/ shoes/ custom/ of

6. follow/ cleaning/ the tradition/ the house/ Do/ before/ we/ of/ have to/ Tet?

7. We/ together/ on/ have/ dinner/ a/ family/ of/ eating/ New Year's Eve/ tradition.

8. wear/ occasions/ special/ on/ women/ Vietnamese/ *ao dai*/ usually

II. Rewrite the sentence using the word in brackets.

1. It's impolite of them to wear hats in the pagoda. (shouldn't)

2. Children have to live with their parents until they reach the age of 18. (obliged)

3. Is it necessary for me to tip in a coffee shop? (have to)

4. It's not mandatory for staff to wear vests in their company. (need)

5. It's good for us to keep our traditional customs. (should)

6. It's really important to remove your shoes when entering a temple. (must)

7. Photography is not allowed at some sacred places. (mustn't)

8. It's Saturday tomorrow, so it's not necessary for Jane to get up early. (have to)

9. If I were you, I'd ask them about their customs. (should)

10. Why don't we look for the information on the Internet? (how)
