

UNIT 4 – READING – It was a bit embarrassing

1. Translate this text into Spanish:

Tips to avoid embarrassing situations when visiting a foreign country

- learn to speak the language
- learn some basic words / useful phrases
- find out about social etiquette and customs
- find out about the climate
- learn about the society and culture
- learn about the cuisine

READ THE TEXT ON PAGE 48 OF YOUR STUDENT'S BOOK AND DO THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

On your travels

Speaking foreign languages makes travelling the world easier, but as you probably know, misunderstandings are quite common. They can be both amusing and annoying, and it's not only what you say that causes them! We asked our readers to share their experiences, so read on for some top tips on how to avoid communication problems on your travels.

'I went to Bulgaria with my parents and my brother last June and we misunderstood a gesture. My brother asked the hotel staff loads of questions, but they shook their heads to say "no" every time! It was a bit worrying as we thought they were angry with us. Later we learned that in Bulgaria you shake your head to say "yes" and nod your head to say "no". The opposite of most Europeans! How confusing! (A)'

Jasmine Redbridge

(B) I've lived in the US for a few years now, but when I moved here five years ago, people kept moving away from me when I was talking to them. It was a bit embarrassing and I started using more deodorant! Then I found out that Americans stand about 1.2 metres away from the people they're speaking to. In Europe, the gap is only about 70 centimetres. I'm much more aware of it now, and I haven't had any more problems ... yet.'

Roberto Monero

I've just started learning Spanish. We went on holiday to Cádiz last year and I asked for some chicken breasts at the supermarket: "Unas pechugas de pollo para planchar, por favor". The butcher and the other customers burst out laughing. Instead of asking for chicken for the grill, "la plancha", I asked for chicken to iron, "planchar"! I had to laugh too.

(C) My tip is to practise as much as possible and not worry about mistakes. I've already made lots more.'

Lulu Bench

6. Complete the sentences with the correct words.

burst out laughing

nodded your head

misunderstanding

gesture

shook your head

gap

- 1 I lost some money in the _____ between the train and the platform. How annoying!
- 2 The party actually started at 8, but there was a _____ so I turned up at 9.
- 3 He _____ when he read his birthday card. It was really amusing.
- 4 I asked to borrow some money from you. You _____ and gave me €20.
- 5 Don't make that _____ with your hand! It's offensive.
- 6 You said no and _____ when I asked you to wash up after dinner last night.