

Reading Worksheet: European and American Culture – What’s Different?

Part 1 – Vocabulary Preview (Before Reading)

Match the words with their definitions.

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| 1. __ Reserved | a) Non-verbal communication using gestures or posture |
| 2. __ Punctual | b) Positive and hopeful about the future |
| 3. __ Small talk | c) Emotionally open and easy to read |
| 4. __ Body language | d) Friendly, light conversation |
| 5. __ Achievement | e) Done without strict rules or formality |
| 6. __ Work-life balance | f) Reaching a goal through effort or success |
| 7. __ Expressive | g) Quiet or shy in social situations |
| 8. __ Informal | h) Arriving on time or doing things at the correct time |
| 9. __ Optimistic | i) The balance between personal life and job responsibilities |

European and American Culture – What’s Different?

Europe and America share many similarities, such as democratic values, modern technology, and global influence. However, their cultures are different in many ways, especially in daily life, communication, and social behavior.

In the United States, people are often very friendly and open when meeting new people. Smiling and small talk are common, even with strangers. Americans tend to be optimistic and prefer a casual, informal style in both language and clothing.

In contrast, many European cultures are more reserved at first. People may take longer to form friendships, but once they do, relationships are strong. In countries like Germany or the UK, people might avoid personal questions in casual conversation. In southern Europe, such as Italy or Spain, people are more expressive and use more body language.

Another difference is time. In America, being on time is very important. Schedules and deadlines are strict, and lateness is often considered disrespectful. In Europe, attitudes about time vary. Northern Europeans (like Swedes or Germans) are very punctual, while southern Europeans (like Greeks or Spaniards) may be more relaxed about time.

When it comes to education and work, Americans usually focus on achievement and competition. Europeans, on the other hand, may emphasize cooperation, quality of life, and work-life balance.

Understanding these cultural differences can help us communicate better and respect people from around the world.

Part 2 – Reading Comprehension (After Reading)

True or False

Write T (True) or F (False). Correct the false ones.

1. ___ Americans usually avoid small talk.
2. ___ Europeans are always punctual.
3. ___ Southern Europeans are more relaxed about time.
4. ___ Americans often use formal language when meeting new people.
5. ___ European cultures may focus more on quality of life than on competition.