

Name: _____ Date: _____

Task 1.1. Read the text.

British Etiquette: Key Rules

In the UK, politeness is very important. People always say "please" and "thank you", even for small things. Another important habit is **queueing** – Britons form orderly lines and never jump a queue. **Small talk** (light conversation) is common. Safe topics are weather, travel, and hobbies. Avoid personal questions about salary, religion, or age. **Punctuality** is expected; if you are late, you must apologise. When invited to someone's home, it is polite to bring a small gift (flowers, chocolates, or wine) and to compliment the host.

However, these rules are not always strict. Among young people, behaviour may be more relaxed in informal settings.

How does it compare with Russia?

In Russia, politeness is also valued, but communication can be more direct. Queueing is respected, but not always strictly. Small talk is less common; people often discuss deeper topics sooner. Punctuality is important, but late arrivals are sometimes tolerated. Bringing a gift when visiting is common in both cultures, but in Russia refusing food may be considered polite, while in the UK it is better to try a little.

Task 1.2. Fill in the comparative table.

Use the text and your knowledge of Russian culture.

Aspect	British Etiquette	Russian Equivalent
Queueing	Always wait in line	
Small talk topics	Weather, travel, hobbies	
Punctuality	Expected, apology if late	
Bringing a gift	Polite (flowers, chocolate)	
Refusing food	Better to try a little	

Task 1.3. Discuss in pairs.

Answer the questions in English. Write short notes before speaking.

Which British rule do you find the strangest? Why?

Which rules are the same in Russia?

Would you feel comfortable following British etiquette? Why / why not?

Task 1.4. Find similarities and differences.

Find **at least two similarities** and **two differences** between British and Russian etiquette (not mentioned in the table above). Write them below. Then prepare a short spoken message (3–4 sentences). Use the useful phrases.

Useful phrases:

Both in the UK and in Russia... / In Britain... while in Russia... / A similarity is... / A difference is...

Similarities:

1. _____
2. _____

Differences:

1. _____
2. _____

Your short message (write it here, then say it aloud):

Self- assessment (tick what you did well)

- I completed the table with correct information.
- I answered all three discussion questions.

- I found at least 2 similarities and 2 differences.
- I used the useful phrases in my spoken message.