

Discussing cultural habits

1.- Read the following text and compare your definition of culture to the one stated in the article. Which one is better? Why? Then, answer the questions below.

Culture is in everything we do. It is part of life and of most of what we may consider "normal". Think about it, how we say hello to others, a normal everyday practice, varies from country to country. The habit of saying hello with a light kiss on the cheek may be common in some countries, while in others, people are more than happy to **shake hands**, or even just **nod** at each other. We may define culture as the total set of **beliefs** we hold as members of a group; and cultural habits, as the behaviors **acquired** as members of that group. The practice of a small habit like greeting is taught or copied from generation to generation in groups of people. If you grew up never seeing the practice of kissing people hello, and no one close to you taught you it was O.K. to do it, you may consider this practice strange, or even wrong. On the other hand, if where you grew up most people say hello with a kiss, you find this habit not only normal, but also correct. One important thing to consider when discussing cultural habits, is that what is strange or different to you, may be normal to others. There is no "right" or "wrong" – just different, and differences are always interesting.



- 1.- What is a cultural habit?
- 2.- What is the cultural habit used as an example in the text?
- 3.- How does this habit illustrate cultural behavior?
- 4.- What is the accepted way to greet someone in your culture?
- 5.- What is the main message of the text?