

READING & LISTENING

Reading

A |  Read and listen.

How late is late?

When you go to a meeting, how do you decide when to leave to get there? Do you leave early, on time, or late? Your answer may be determined by where you live. In some cultures, it's rude to be late to a meeting or dinner. In other cultures, it's rude to arrive on time or early.

In Switzerland, when a train is scheduled to arrive at seven o'clock, the train will be there on time. You can plan around the arrival time of the train. If you are late, you will have to catch the next train.

In the United States, people expect things to happen on time. When people in the United States plan a meeting, they expect people to be on time. Fifteen minutes late might be OK; an hour late is not. People in the United States plan their day around things happening on time.

In Brazil, people aren't as worried about being on time. It is not considered rude to be half an hour or an hour late to a meeting. People in Brazil don't worry about schedules and punctuality as much as people in some other cultures.

Africa is even more relaxed about time. In West Africa, two hours late is considered on time. They say that they exist in time, not for time. They are more interested in their lives than in schedules.



B | Read the sentences. Write the correct location.

the United States Brazil Switzerland Africa

- 1 In _____, people are expected to be on time to meetings.
- 2 In _____, two hours late is considered on time.
- 3 In _____, it is not considered rude to be half an hour late to a meeting.
- 4 In _____, trains are always on time.

C |  What do you consider early, on time, or late for a party or a business meeting? Tell a partner.

I never arrive early for parties! If a party starts at 8, I usually arrive at 11.



Listening

A |  Listen. Write the number of the speaker next to the correct picture.



B |  Listen again. Who said it? Write the number of the speaker next to the sentence.

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|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 ____ This is really annoying. | 5 ____ I'm hungry. |
| 2 ____ He's supposed to be here by now. | 6 ____ She could be lost. |
| 3 ____ His cell phone must be dead. | 7 ____ It could be stuck in traffic. |
| 4 ____ I hate first dates. | 8 ____ She must be on her way. |