

COMPREHENSION READING

A. READ THE ARTICLE AND CIRCLE T (TRUE) OR F (FALSE).

(5 marks)

Respecting a country's culture

When you're visiting another country, it's important to be prepared for some cultural differences. Of course, speaking a little of the language helps – and it shows that you want to communicate. It also helps if you know a little about the religion and politics of the place so that you don't say anything that will upset people in your host country.

People in different parts of the world expect different things. Let me give you a simple example. Imagine you're a businessman from the USA visiting Japan for work. Trying to be friendly, perhaps while you are walking through a door, you put your hand on the other person's back to let him or her go first. There's nothing wrong with that, right? Except that there is. You're

breaking one of the many rules that exist in different cultures. Japanese people don't want you to touch them and they don't expect any physical contact. Each country has different cultural rules about what is and isn't acceptable. Let's say the same businessman then goes to South America. There, people tend to stand quite close to each other. This time, it's the North

American who has the problem because, in the USA, the idea of personal space is that they leave about one metre between two people. In South America, and in many other countries, the distance can be half that, leaving the visitor feeling a little uncomfortable.

Other cultural differences include things like making eye contact. Many people make eye contact as a way to have a successful conversation. Some say that you can't trust people who don't make eye contact because they aren't being honest. Yet the Japanese see eye contact as unfriendly. While we are still in Japan when you have a meal that you particularly enjoy, do you usually leave a little extra money as a tip for the waiter? It's a kind and generous act that most of us don't even think about. Well, don't do that here as they don't think it's polite. Just pay the bill and no more. You're not being mean – you're just respecting the culture of

the country you're visiting.

1. You should avoid talking about religion or politics. T / F
2. Visitors should always walk through a door before their hosts. T / F
3. Cultural rules are the same in most countries. T / F
4. A lot of people think it is important to make eye contact when talking to someone. T / F
5. Japanese people think you are mean if you don't leave a tip for the waiter. T / F

B. CHOOSE THE BEST PHRASE TO COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES

(5 marks)

A. do not leave a tip

B. don't touch them

C. speaking the language a bit

D. stand closer together

E. the Japanese person thinks it is unfriendly

1. You can show people in another country that you want to communicate by
2. When you let someone go through a door first in Japan,
3. Compared to North America, people in South America
4. When you are talking to a Japanese person and making eye contact,
5. When you have a meal in a Japanese restaurant,

