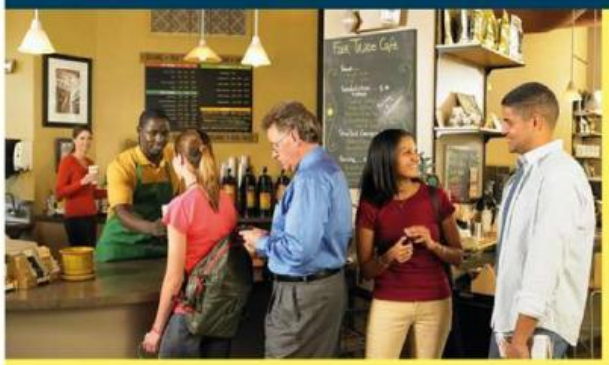
INTERCHANGE 5 Cultural dos and taboos

A These statements are generally true about cultural behavior in the United States. Check (✓) those that are true in your country.

COMPARING CULTURES

Find out how typical U.S. cultural behavior compares to yours!





SOCIALIZING AND ENTERTAINING

- ☐ **1.** It's OK to start a conversation with a stranger when waiting in line.
- ☐ **2.** People aren't supposed to stand too close to other people when talking.
- ☐ **3.** In general, people wear outdoor shoes inside their homes.
- ☐ **4.** Women often hug their female friends when they meet.
- ☐ **5.** It's not acceptable to ask people how much money they earn or how much they paid for things.
- ☐ **6.** People are expected to call or text before dropping by a friend's house.
- ☐ **7.** When invited to someone's home for dinner, people usually arrive on time.
- ☐ **8.** Gifts are normally opened when received.



DINING AND SHOPPING

- ☐ **9.** It's acceptable to eat while walking outside.
- ☐ **10.** Eating is not allowed while shopping in most stores.
- ☐ **11.** When eating in a restaurant, friends either split the cost of the meal or take turns paying.
- ☐ **12.** It's the custom to leave a 15–20% tip for the server at a restaurant.
- ☐ **13.** It's uncommon to bargain when you buy things in stores.

AT WORK AND SCHOOL

- ☐ **14.** In an office, people usually prefer to be called by their first names.
- ☐ **15.** Students remain seated when the teacher enters the classroom.

DATING AND MARRIAGE

- ☐ **16.** It's acceptable for most teenagers to go out on dates.
- ☐ **17.** People usually decide for themselves who they will marry.

B **PAIR WORK** Compare your answers with a partner. For the statements you didn't check, why do you think these behaviors are different in your country?

LIVEWORKSHEETS