

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?