13 READING

A Scan the blog. What kinds of culture shock did the writer experience?

CULTURE SHOCK

PROFILE | PHOTOS | BLOG | COMMUNITY

I'm an exchange student from Spain navigating life in the United States. *Lucia M.*



JANUARY 15

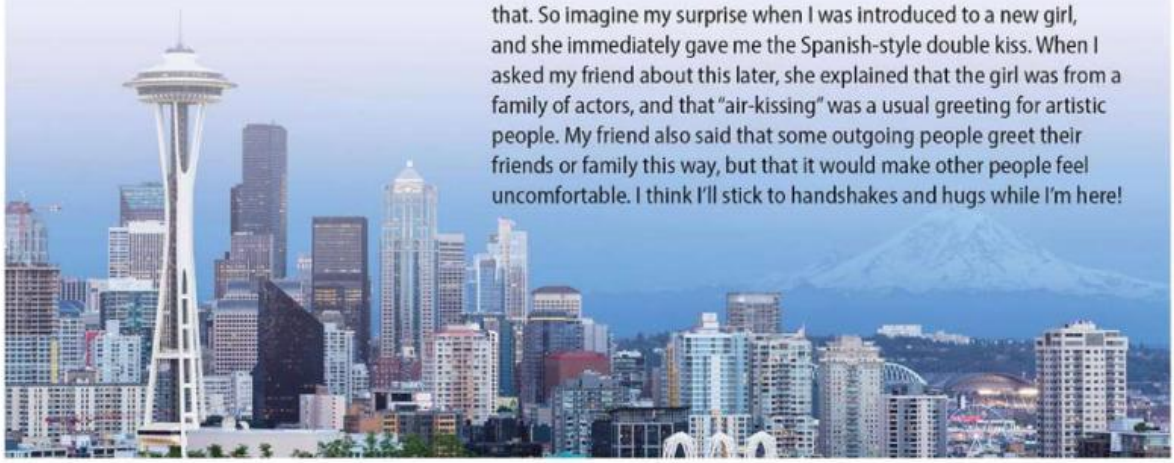
My hometown of Seville, Spain is a city with active, passionate people and a lively nightlife, so coming to Seattle, in the United States, has been quite an eye-opener. Americans think of Seattle as an exciting city, but the first time I went out with friends on a Saturday night, there was hardly anybody out in the streets. I actually thought something was wrong! Then my friend explained that most of their social life takes place indoors. In Seville, people fill the streets year-round, and Saturday nights are like a big celebration.

JANUARY 22

After a couple of weeks of classes, I've begun to notice some differences between Spanish students and American students. In Spain, students talk a lot during class, and it's not always related to the lesson. On the other hand, when Spanish students are enthusiastic about a lesson, they often ask unusual questions, and it's common to stay after class to talk to the teacher. American students are expected to talk less and listen more, and many of them take detailed notes. Most of them leave the room as soon as the class ends, though, and are already focused on the next lesson.

FEBRUARY 8

Before I came to the United States, a friend who had studied here told me that American friends don't greet each other like we do in Spain, where we touch cheeks and make kissing sounds. Americans often hug each other, but kissing is not common, and I've gotten used to that. So imagine my surprise when I was introduced to a new girl, and she immediately gave me the Spanish-style double kiss. When I asked my friend about this later, she explained that the girl was from a family of actors, and that "air-kissing" was a usual greeting for artistic people. My friend also said that some outgoing people greet their friends or family this way, but that it would make other people feel uncomfortable. I think I'll stick to handshakes and hugs while I'm here!



B Read the blog. Then add the correct title to each entry.

Meeting and greeting Where's the party? Class contrasts

C Check (✓) True or False for each statement. Then correct the false statements.

	True	False
1. The writer was nervous because the Seattle streets were crowded at night.	☐	☐
2. Spanish students often stay after class to ask questions.	☐	☐
3. Hugging is a usual greeting among friends in Spain.	☐	☐
4. The writer plans to change the way she greets American friends.	☐	☐

D **PAIR WORK** How do things in your city compare with Seville? with Seattle?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

READING COMPREHENSION SKILLS

1. How does the author describe the social life in Seville compared to Seattle?

A. Seattle's social life happens mostly indoors
B. Americans party more than Spanish people
C. Seville's streets are empty on weekends
D. Both cities have similar nightlife

2. What surprised the author about American greetings?

A. Some people use air-kissing depending on their background
B. Hugging is uncommon
C. Handshakes are the only acceptable greeting
D. People always kiss when meeting

3. How do Spanish students typically behave in class according to the text?

A. They never speak during lessons
B. They talk a lot and ask unusual questions
C. They only communicate with the teacher after class
D. They are always completely silent

4. What difference did the author notice about American students?

A. They take detailed notes and leave quickly after class
B. They always stay to chat with the teacher
C. They prefer to talk more than listen
D. They never take notes

5. What cultural difference does the text highlight about social interactions?

A. Spanish people never hug their friends
B. Americans are less friendly than Spanish people
C. Spanish people are more physically expressive in greetings
D. American greetings are always formal

6. How does the author describe their experience of adapting to American culture?

A. They reject American cultural practices
B. They are observing and adjusting to new customs
C. They are struggling to understand differences
D. They are completely confused

7. What can be inferred about the author's perspective?

A. They find American culture boring
B. They are curious about cultural differences
C. They dislike American culture
D. They want to return to Spain immediately



LIVEWORKSHEETS