

7A Foreign languages

Activity 1

- A** A: What's happening in the first picture?
B: I don't think the man knows which restroom to use.
A: He probably doesn't speak Spanish.
B: What would you do in his situation?
A: I'd ask someone for help.
B: I wouldn't. I'd just wait until someone else went into the restroom.

Activity 1

- B** A: Let's match the languages to the phrases. OK. Phrase *a* is in English. How about phrase *b*?
B: I think it's Spanish, but I'm not really sure.

Activity 1

- C** A: Let's check our answers. We got two wrong. That's not too bad. Now let's answer the questions. In which countries are the languages spoken?
B: Let's see. English is spoken in the U.K., the U.S., and Canada.
A: Also Australia and New Zealand. And don't forget parts of the Caribbean.
B: What languages are spoken where you live?
A: Mandarin is the main language spoken in Taiwan. How about where you live?
B: We speak Portuguese in Brazil. What foreign languages do you know a few words of?
A: I can count from 1 to 10 in German.
B: What language do you think would be the most difficult to learn?
A: For English speakers, I've heard that Japanese is the most difficult to learn.
B: What languages would you like to learn?
A: Other than English, I would like to learn French. Someday I'd love to live in Paris.

Activity 2

- B** A: What do you think they should have done in each situation?
B: Mark should have used a phrase book to order food. It's better to try to use the language.
A: What kinds of language problems have you experienced?
B: Before I went to France, I learned how to ask directions, but then when I asked someone which way the train station was, I couldn't understand the person's answer.
A: How important is it to speak the language of a country you visit?
B: It's really important because it shows you're making an effort.

Activity 3

- A** A: Let's make a list of the ten most important phrases for tourists.
B: "Thank you" is a very important phrase.
A: I agree. Do you think "Do you speak English?" is important?
B: Sure. And "Sorry, I don't understand" is important, too.

Activity 3

- B** A: What do you think the five most important phrases are?
B: I think "Excuse me" is important.
C: Me, too. I also think "How much is this?" is very important.
D: "Thank you" is also one of the most important.

Activity 3

- C** A: OK, so now we have to translate our five most important phrases.
B: Well, "Excuse me" in my language is "Con permiso."

7^B What's the custom?

Activity 1

- A** A: What do you think the people on the left are “doing wrong”?
B: The man didn't take his shoes off. He should have removed them before he went inside.
A: What would you say to him?
B: I'd say, “Excuse me. Would you mind taking your shoes off, please?”
A: Really? I don't think I'd say anything because he might feel embarrassed.
B: Which actions would be “wrong” in your culture?
A: In my culture, we don't leave a tip in a restaurant.

Activity 1

- B** A: Imagine these situations. What would you do in your culture? You're shopping for jeans, but the price is a little high.
B: I would pay the amount on the price tag. What would you do?
A: I wouldn't do any of those things. I'd go to a different store.

Activity 1

- C** A: What would most people from your culture do in the situations in part B?
B: In the first situation, most people from my culture would bargain for a lower price.
C: Really? That would never happen in my culture. People always just pay the amount on the price tag.
D: Have you ever been in similar situations? What happened?
A: Once, a tourist took a photo of me. I felt annoyed because he didn't ask my permission.

Activity 2

- C** A: If you've traveled abroad, what surprised you about daily life there?
B: When I visited Australia, I was surprised how relaxed people seemed.
A: Which of your culture's customs might surprise visitors from abroad?
B: Touching and holding hands with members of the same sex in public is acceptable and shows friendship in my culture. However, touching or kissing members of the opposite sex in public is totally unacceptable.

Activity 3

- A** A: What information about customs would be helpful for a friend from abroad?
B: If you go to restaurants, you should leave a 15 percent tip. And you should tip more if you stay in the restaurant for a long time.

Activity 3

- B** A: What might happen if a person doesn't follow your advice?
B: If you don't leave a tip, the server might get upset.
C: And the next time you go there, you might not get good service.
D: Wow! I'll have to remember that advice.