

ACTIVIDADES DEPARTAMENTO DE INGLÉS

**Raquel García Extremadouro
M^a Asunción Pereira Rguez.**

INTRODUCCIÓN

Dende o Departamento de inglés aportamos dúas actividades para traballar co alumnado en dous niveis: 4º ESO, da man da profesora Raquel García Extremadouro; e 1º de Bacharelato Internacional, baixo a supervisión de Mª Asunción Pereira).

A temática que tratamos é o “Culture Clash” ou “Culture Shock” (o famoso choque cultural) e queremos que o noso alumnado poda analízalo a través da [cultura de Xapón](#).

En primeiro lugar, presentaremos o concepto:

“Culture shock or Culture Clash refers to the impact of moving from a familiar culture to one that is unfamiliar. This impact includes the anxiety and feelings (such as surprise, disorientation, uncertainty, and confusion) felt when a person must adapt to a different and unknown cultural or social environment. It might include the shock of a new environment, meeting new people, eating new food, or adapting to a foreign language, as well as the shock of being separated from the important people in your life: such as family, friends, colleagues, and teachers”.
(<https://www.internationalstudentinsurance.com/espanol/explicado/salud-mental/choque-cultural/que-es-el-choque-cultural.php>).

A continuación, aportaremos un texto real para que fagan unha comprensión lectora. No caso de 4º ESO, algunhas palabras foron substituídas por sinónimos para facilitar a súa comprensión por parte do alumnado.

Por último, realizaremos, tamén a dous niveis distintos, un exercicio de **listening** sobre a mesma temática.

Ámbalas dúas actividades aportarán ao noso alumnado un coñecemento sobre a cultura xaponesa e estratexias para enfrontarse ao diferente, punto de partida para traballar a tolerancia.

READING COMPREHENSION YEAR 12 (IB GROUP)

READING COMPREHENSION (IB Level)

Culture clash: 10 insider tips for visiting Japan

By Amy Chavez, RocketNews24

<https://japantoday.com/category/features/lifestyle/culture-clash-10-insider-tips-for-visiting-japan>

TOKYO

The Japanese are known for their politeness, so it's only natural that visitors to Japan want to know what to do, or not do, to avoid appearing rude. Check out this list of little behaviors that you won't find in your guidebook.

I've compiled a list of things to think about when visiting Japan based on my own observations living here. None of the violations here will single you out as being rude per se, but if you can avoid these faux pas, you'll earn the praise of the Japanese for being polite. That's a pretty high honor in the land of politeness.

Okay, here we go:

1. Don't ask your host for something unless you really need it.

This may seem obvious at first, but you'd be surprised how often I hear someone at a "minshuku" (a family-run Japanese-style inn) say to their host: "Do you have some extra batteries (or whatever)? If you don't, that's okay, but I'd really like to use my electric shaver." This request is perfectly okay in your own country, because the assumption is that if the person doesn't have said object, they'll say so.

The Japanese, on the other hand, find it very hard to decline requests; on the contrary, they feel obligated to fulfill them! If they don't have batteries, they'll either sacrifice the ones from their own TV remote control, or may even go down to the store themselves to buy some for you, which, while admirable, probably isn't your intention when asking. If it's something you really need, then by all means go ahead and ask, but if you follow it up with "If you can't do it, that's okay," then you probably don't really need it anyway and you're better off not putting your host out.

2. When you have to ask for help...

After 20 years of living in Japan, I've hardly ever been asked to do a personal favor for someone. This is because in Japan, you're expected to not inconvenience others and only ask the help of others when you really need it. But for the times you do need someone's help, be sure to thank them the Japanese way: with a proper gift. The few favors I have been asked regarded proofreading a colleague's English abstract for a research paper, and translating an English letter someone received from abroad. Usually, these incidences involved someone knocking on my door while holding a bag containing an expensively wrapped delicacy. In other words, they were ready with the gift before they'd even asked the favor! As a tourist, there are times when you're going to need help. Maybe someone drives you to the hospital, or goes out of their way to do something. These people should be rewarded properly with a quality gift that shows you care. This is not the time to penny-pinch; give something more than that koala clip you've been handing out to people along the way.

3. When asking little favors...

On the other hand, when someone does a little favor for you (maybe you borrowed a converter at the "minshuku" to plug in your electronics), that's when to employ those koala clips, Japanese and American flag lapel pins, Swiss chocolate bars, Dutch clogs key chains, etc. Keep in mind that you can even give food or snacks to people (which can be really fun if you can find something unique or quirky from home to carry with you, such as Swiss cow flavored potato chips or something). I am frequently given cans of Pocari Sweat or canned juice when I do incidentals for Japanese people. In this case, it's the gesture that counts, not how much you've spent.

4. Lower your voice. Yes, you!

One of the things you'll notice when you come to Japan is that the Japanese are, generally speaking, quiet people. While they can be boisterous and loud when in groups (especially when drinking), the average person, when on his or her own, is downright demure. As a general rule, do not speak in a loud voice when having a conversation—regardless of whether the person you're talking to is Japanese or a fellow foreigner— and don't raise your voice when you get upset. A good rule to

follow is: never talk louder than anyone else in the room, even if you're angry. A booming voice is embarrassing to Japanese people who generally don't like to attract attention or have their conversations overheard by those who aren't a part of them, so be mindful of the other people around you. Pretend you're in a museum if you have to.

5. Don't dominate conversations

Be mindful that Japanese people are unlikely to jump into a conversation unless given the proper cues, which they're probably waiting for.

I've mentioned being a better listener before, but it bears repeating. It's easy to do all the talking in a conversation when Japanese people aren't talking back the way you might expect them to. But usually your Japanese conversation partner just needs a bit more of a break in the conversation to jump in. Foreigners often mistake uncomfortable silences as an impetus to keep on talking. Resist the temptation and wait for the Japanese person to feel comfortable and start talking, or wait for a signal from the person (such as a request for more detail) before continuing. Japanese people will famously wait for you to finish your monologue before saying, "By the way..." and changing the subject, which they've been waiting to change for quite some time.

A good rule to follow is to insert questions into your dialogue every now and then. Questions invite the other person into the conversation and can also be used to check for comprehension to make sure the person is understanding your point.

6. Just the facts, please!

Slowing down the pace of your English just a tad (while resisting the urge to drop less important words) will also help when speaking with non-native English speakers because it gives them more time to process information. Good enunciation will also help your listener identify words which can sound completely different depending on the speaker's accent. Cut the jokes, too. Most second language learners do not have the luxury of being able to understand sarcasm, innuendo, puns, etc. Again, just the facts, please! If you've ever watched the American TV show "South Park" you've

probably noticed (besides its hilarious depictions of Japan) that it takes a while to clue into the fast talking, response-slinging, and slang-slaying used by the characters on the show. Have mercy on your listeners and don't talk like a South Park character!

7. Level up your wardrobe

If you're meeting up with Japanese people, dress nicely. It's amazing how often I see smartly attired Japanese people dining with a foreigner who is wearing jeans and sneakers. It's disrespectful to your guests as well as the restaurant. In Japan, jeans and sneakers are for musicians and artists.

8. Wear nice shoes

You'll hardly ever see a Japanese person with shabby shoes. To the contrary, they'll be clean, polished and probably of high quality. Why? It's not just because the Japanese walk a lot to get around, but also because in Japan you often have to take your shoes off at the door to establishments (houses, restaurants, clinics, etc.) so you don't want to display worn, smelly footwear. Instead, be the well-heeled! Pity the poor woman (and yes, it is a woman!) who has to handle your shoes at the "genkan"(entrance) and turn them around so the toes are pointing outward, so that when you leave, you can slip right into them.

And while we're at it, during the shoe to slipper exchange, when you step out of your shoes in the "genkan," step straight up onto the area where the slippers are waiting so as to avoid touching the dirty floor (where your shoes are) in your socks.

9. Barefoot, bare-chested, and bare-butted!

Despite the several naked festivals in Japan, flesh-flashing antics such as skinny dipping in the sea, even at night when you think no one is looking, is a no-no. Sorry, butt.

Men walking around bare-chested outside is considered uncouth too. I once noticed that in Bali, many of the Japanese young males walked around the streets (and even into the open-air restaurants), without shirts on. When I asked one of these guys

about this peculiarity, he said they pad around shirtless, "Because we can't do this in Japan!"

Going barefoot outside (naked feet) will also raise eyebrows as it violates the whole idea of keeping dirt out of the house or building since you'll just track it back inside on the soles of your feet. If you don't want to go to the trouble to put your shoes back on when you're only going outside for a moment, then use the outdoor slippers provided for this purpose.

10. Hugs are awkward

No one is saying you can't give a Japanese person a hug if you feel touched by something they did for you, but keep in mind this well-intended gesture will most likely make the person feel very uncomfortable. Yes, despite the limited success of the free hug campaign in Japan and the world, this level of physical contact still isn't common here. My rule of thumb on this (because we just have to hug, don't we?!) is if the person has lived abroad before, then give them a hug. If they haven't, shake their hand instead. I've never met a Japanese person who didn't get an absolute thrill out of a hand-shake, so extend your hand when you want to thank a Japanese person or say good-bye.

I hope some of these tips will help you on your way to becoming a well-informed, Japanese-level-polite tourist to Japan! If you have further suggestions based on your own experiences, please let us know in the comments section below. For that, I give you a hearty handshake.

READING COMPREHENSION (YEAR 12 / IB GROUP)

NAME:

SURNAME:

DATE:

WRITE IF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE True or False ACCORDING TO THE TEXT (5 x 0.5 = 2.5)

- a) Visitors to Japan are advised to ask their hosts for favors only if they genuinely need them.
- b) Japanese people find it easy to decline requests from guests.
- c) It is customary to give a gift to someone before asking for their help in Japan.
- d) Japanese people are generally loud and boisterous in public.
- e) Japanese people appreciate it when foreigners dominate conversations.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT OPTION TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

(5 x 0.5 = 2.5)

1. How long has the author been living in Japan?
 - a) 10 years
 - b) 30 years
 - c) 20 years
 - d) 40 years

2. What does the author suggest as an appropriate way to thank someone for their help?
 - a) A simple thank you
 - b) A quality gift
 - c) A hug
 - d) A handshake

3. What does the author recommend giving as a gift for small favors?
 - a) Expensive jewelry
 - b) Food or snacks
 - c) Money
 - d) Handwritten notes



4. What type of behavior does the author discourage in conversations with Japanese people?
 - a) Speaking loudly
 - b) Speaking softly
 - c) Making jokes
 - d) Asking questions

5. What is the author's advice regarding wardrobe when meeting Japanese people?
 - a) Dress casually
 - b) Wear jeans and sneakers
 - c) Wear comfortable clothes
 - d) Dress formally

FIND SYNONYMS IN THE TEXT (5 x 0.6 = 3)

- a) Blunder, mistake:
- b) To be a nuisance, to trouble, to bother, to annoy:
- c) Noisy, loud, rowdy:
- d) Discomforting, embarrassing:
- e) Rude:

FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH ONE OR TWO WORDS (5 x 0.4 = 2)

1. Visitors to Japan are advised to lower their voice and avoid speaking in a _____ voice.
2. Japanese people appreciate it when foreigners demonstrate _____ behavior in conversations.
3. When giving gifts, it's the _____ that counts, not the monetary value.
4. The author recommends avoiding _____ conversations with Japanese people.
5. Giving a hug to a Japanese person may make them feel _____.

READING COMPREHENSION - 10th GRADE

READING COMPREHENSION

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I've compiled a list of things to think about when visiting Japan based on my own observations living here. None of the violations here will single you out as being rude by themselves, but if you can avoid these situations, you'll earn the respect of the Japanese for being polite. That's a pretty high honor in the land of politeness.

Okay, here we go:

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This may seem obvious at first, but you'd be surprised how often I hear someone at a "minshuku" (a family-run Japanese-style inn) say to their host: "Do you have some extra batteries (or whatever)? If you don't, that's okay, but I'd really like to use my electric shaver." This request is perfectly okay in your own country, because the assumption is that if the person doesn't have said object, they'll say so.

The Japanese, on the other hand, find it very hard to decline requests; on the contrary, they feel obligated to say yes! If they don't have batteries, they'll either sacrifice the ones from their own TV remote control, or may even go down to the store themselves to buy some for you, which, while admirable, probably isn't your intention when asking. If it's something

you really need, then by all means go ahead and ask, but if you follow it up with “If you can’t do it, that’s okay,” then you probably don’t really need it anyway.

2. When you have to ask for help...

After 20 years of living in Japan, I’ve hardly ever been asked to do a personal favor for someone. This is because in Japan, you’re expected to not inconvenience others and only ask the help of others when you really need it. But for the times you do need someone’s help, be sure to thank them the Japanese way: with a proper gift.

The few favors I have been asked while living in Japan usually involved someone knocking on my door while holding a bag containing an expensively wrapped gift. In other words, they were ready with my present before they’d even asked the favor! As a tourist, there are times when you’re going to need help. Maybe someone drives you to the hospital, or goes out of their way to do something. These people should be rewarded properly with a quality gift that shows you care.

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On the other hand, when someone does a little favor for you (maybe you borrowed a converter at the "minshuku" to plug in your electronics), that’s when to employ those small gifts like koala clips, Japanese and American flag lapel pins, Swiss chocolate bars, key chains, etc. Keep in mind that you can even give food or snacks to people (which can be really fun if you can find something unique or quirky from home to carry with you, such as Swiss cow flavored potato chips or something). In this case, it’s the gesture that counts, not how much you’ve spent.

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One of the things you’ll notice when you come to Japan is that the Japanese are, generally speaking, quiet people. While they can be loud when in groups (especially when drinking), the average person, when on his or her own, is actually pretty shy. As a general rule, do not speak in a loud voice when having a conversation—regardless of whether the person

you're talking to is Japanese or a fellow foreigner— and don't raise your voice when you get upset. A good rule to follow is: never talk louder than anyone else in the room, even if you're angry. Japanese people generally don't like to attract attention or have their conversations overheard by those who aren't a part of them, so be mindful of the other people around you. Pretend you're in a museum if you have to.

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You'll hardly ever see a Japanese person wearing shoes that are in poor condition. To the contrary, they'll be clean and probably of high quality. Why? It's not just because the Japanese walk a lot to get around, but also because in Japan you often have to take your shoes off at the door to establishments (houses, restaurants, clinics, etc.) so you don't want to display worn, smelly footwear.

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in Japan and the world, this level of physical contact still isn't common here. My rule on this is if the person has lived abroad before, then give them a hug. If they haven't, shake their hand instead.

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READING COMPREHENSION - 10th GRADE

NAME:

SURNAME:

DATE:

State whether the following statements are TRUE (T) or FALSE (F) according to the information given in the text. Then, correct the false statements to make them true.

1. The Japanese have a hard time saying no to requests, and they will go to great lengths in order to fulfil them.
2. When a local does a favour for you, it is established that you should verbally thank them for it.
3. The Japanese are, in general, pretty intense and out-there people.
4. During a conversation, they find it well-mannered to be given as many details on the topic as possible.
5. For people in Japan, comfort is very important when choosing outfits. They don't pay much attention to fashionable pieces or styles.

Circle the correct option according to the information given in the text above.

1. According to the text, why should you avoid asking your host for something unless you really need it?
 - a. The host may feel obligated to fulfil your request even if it inconveniences them.
 - b. It is considered impolite to ask for help in Japan.
 - c. The host might not have the item and will feel embarrassed.
2. When asking for a personal favour in Japan, what is a culturally appropriate way to show your appreciation?
 - a. Saying "thank you" profusely.
 - b. Presenting a properly wrapped gift.
 - c. Giving them a handwritten thank you note.

3. Why is it important to lower your voice when speaking in Japan?
 - a. Loud conversations are seen as disrespectful and disruptive.
 - b. It is a sign of confidence and assertiveness.
 - c. Loud voices are only appropriate during festivals.

4. What should you do to encourage a Japanese person to participate more in a conversation?
 - a. Ask questions to invite them into the conversation.
 - b. Speak louder to draw their attention.
 - c. Tell jokes to make them feel comfortable.

5. Why should you avoid wearing worn or low-quality shoes in Japan?
 - a. Japanese people value minimalism and avoid owning many pairs of shoes.
 - b. Shoes are often removed indoors, so their condition is more noticeable.
 - c. It is considered a sign of wealth and status.

Find words in the text with the following meanings:

1. A place where guests stay, typically a family-run Japanese-style inn:
2. To feel required or compelled to do something, often due to social or cultural expectations:
3. A social interaction involving physical contact, which can be uncomfortable in Japan:
4. The act of diving into water naked, which is considered inappropriate in Japan:
5. An uncomfortable feeling due to a situation, often involving social interactions:

Fill in the blanks with appropriate words from the text.

1. In Japan, it's important not to ask your host for something unless you really _____ it, as they may feel _____ to fulfil your request even if it inconveniences them.
2. When you ask for help in Japan, it's customary to show appreciation with a proper _____ before even asking for the favour.
3. Japanese people generally speak in a _____ voice, so visitors should avoid speaking loudly to prevent being seen as _____.
4. During conversations, Japanese people might need a bit more time to jump in. It's helpful to insert _____ into your dialogue to invite them to participate.
5. When visiting Japan, it's respectful to dress _____ when meeting with Japanese people and to wear _____ shoes, as worn or dirty footwear is considered inappropriate.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION (YEAR 12 / IB GROUP)

LISTENING COMPREHENSION (YEAR 12 / IB GROUP)

<https://www.eslecollege.com/wp-content/uploads/h5p/content/131/audios/files-5f7008de35e8b.mp3>

NAME:

SURNAME:

DATE:

SAY IF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE True or False ACCORDING TO THE RECORDING

1. In Japan, people are more likely to jaywalk without concern for traffic signals.
2. The speaker finds Chinese communication style to be more indirect compared to Japanese.
3. The speaker feels that it is easier to integrate into Chinese society compared to Japanese society.
4. Chinese culture emphasizes order and detail similar to Japanese culture.
5. The speaker expresses a preference for Japanese culture over Chinese culture.

CIRCLE THE CORRECT OPTION ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE RECORDING

1. What is the main difference in traffic etiquette between Japan and China?
 - a) In Japan, people follow strict rules, while in China, traffic is chaotic.
 - b) In China, people always follow traffic signals, while in Japan, jaywalking is common.
 - c) Both Japan and China have similar traffic rules and etiquette.
 - d) Traffic etiquette is not mentioned in the recording.
2. How does the speaker describe the communication styles of Japanese and Chinese people?



- a) Japanese communication is direct and assertive, while Chinese communication is more reserved.
- b) Chinese communication is more direct and aggressive, while Japanese communication is more indirect.
- c) Both Japanese and Chinese communication styles are similar.
- d) Communication styles are not discussed in the recording.
3. What does the speaker feel about the openness of Chinese people compared to Japanese people?
- a) Chinese people are less open compared to Japanese people.
- b) Chinese people are more open compared to Japanese people.
- c) Both Chinese and Japanese people are equally open.
- d) The speaker does not provide an opinion on this matter.

FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH AN APPROPRIATE WORD ACCORDING TO THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE RECORDING

1. In _____, there's a strict etiquette to line up and never cross a road before the green signal.
2. In China, traffic is _____ and in my first few days, still in Japanese mode, I was almost knocked over several times.
3. The spoken word in China seems more direct and _____ compared with Japanese.
4. The speaker expresses admiration for the civil and polite nature of the Japanese but acknowledges that ultimately, foreigners would always remain a _____.
5. The speaker finds it easier to integrate into Chinese society due to its _____ population and history of immigration.

LISTENING COMPREHENSION - 10th GRADE

LISTENING COMPREHENSION - 10th GRADE

NAME:

SURNAME:

DATE:

Say if the following statements are TRUE (T) or FALSE (F) given the information in the recording. Then, correct the false statements to make them true.

1. China and Japan are described as very similar in their mentalities.
2. The author finds Chinese people more opinionated and energetic than Japanese people.
3. In Japan, people panic when someone jaywalks.
4. In China, traffic rules are strictly followed.
5. The author feels that Chinese are less open than Japanese.

Answer the following questions using the information in the recording. Make your answers as complete as possible.

1. How does the author describe the differences in traffic behaviour between Japan and China?
2. What emotions and expressions has the author observed more frequently in China compared to Japan?

3. According to the author, how do Japanese people generally react to a foreigner living in Japan?

4. What experiences does the author share about receiving help from strangers in China?

5. What aspects of Japanese culture does the author say they will miss?

Match the statements to the corresponding country (Japan or China) according to the information given in the recording.

1. "Polite, ordered, and obsessed with process and detail."
2. "Loud, energetic, opinionated."
3. "Traffic is life-threatening and horns are constant."
4. "Strict etiquette in traffic and never crossing a road before the green signal."
5. "Designed to hide intentions, meanings, and avoid confrontations in spoken language."
6. "Much more direct and aggressive in spoken communication."

