

# Keeping Culture in Mind

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An Intensive course on culture.

Student's Book

High Elementary to Advanced

Valley Music Publications (VMP)

[www.englishteacher.co.nz](http://www.englishteacher.co.nz)

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## Exit Unit

### Overview of learning outcomes:

to learn about your personal view, culture and re-entry shock	to learn about: personal behaviour; support networks; adaptability and their impact on culture	to learn about: physical things: clothes, smell; posture; proxemics; silence; feelings	to learn about: feelings; relationships; prediction; background and foreground; symbols; perspective; colours; status; position in images	to learn about: emotive words
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# Exit Unit



*What do you think about 1-4?*

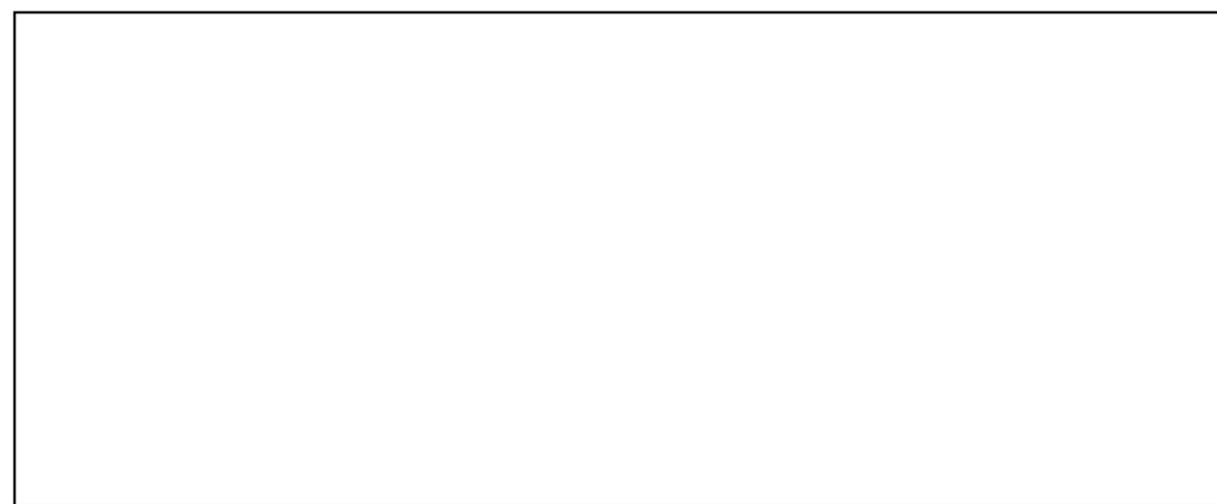
*In small groups talk about your answers.*

1. I think this unit is about people. Yes/No why not?
  2. I think this unit is about hands. Yes/No Why or why not?
  3. I think this unit is about feelings Yes/No Why or why not?
  4. I think this unit is about countries Yes/No Why or why not?
- How many of us agree? \_\_\_\_\_

# Reading illustrations (pictures, photos etc)

*In small groups answer the questions below:*

1. Look at the pictures of people. What are the people doing in each picture?  
What in the picture helped you to understand?  
Are the photos inside or outside? How do you know?
2. Which pictures or photos are about feelings?  
(Use your finger, point to them and say, "This one!")  
How do you know?  
Which ones are negative feelings? \_\_\_\_\_  
How do people use their head to show interest?
3. Look at the picture of a man and a woman. What is their relationship to each other (probably)?  
Why isn't the man speaking?  
Do the men in the group photos show status (position or class in society) in any way? How?  
In your culture how do you show you are more important than another person?
4. What is the picture of hands about? good luck promises friendship other?  
How do you know?
5. In which illustrations do the people look away from you and not at the camera?  
(Use your finger, point to them and say, "This one!")  
What does the artist want you to look at?  
How important is the background of each illustration?
6. What do you think of when you see a rainbow?  
Which part of the word rainbow helps you with the meaning?  
When do you see a rainbow?  
How many of us have seen a rainbow in New Zealand? \_\_\_\_  
How many of us have seen a rainbow before? \_\_\_\_
7. What does the picture of the yellow ball with the blue balls mean?  
Do the colours of the balls mean anything? Why or why not?
8. There is a picture of a ball with flags on it. Can you see your flag?  
Why are the flags on a ball?  
What does the artist want you to think?  
Can you draw your flag in the box below (or show your flag) to other students now?



## Exit Unit: Time to go

### 1. Brainstorming aspects of culture

In small groups write your answers to the following:

1. What aspects of culture are the same for everyone?

2. What affects how we celebrate or do cultural activities?

Which group has the most **relevant** answers and did not repeat ideas? \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Learning about culture shock [Make sure you know this vocabulary](#)

a) Match the following to the numbers 1-9 on the culture shock graph.

Write the number after each one below.

You are excited about returning home. \_\_\_

Everything is new, interesting and exciting. \_\_\_

You may feel homesick, depressed and helpless. \_\_\_

Differences become apparent and irritating. Problems occur and frustration starts. \_\_\_

You may feel frustrated, angry or lonely because your family and old friends don't understand your experiences in another country. People don't understand how you changed. You miss the host culture and friends. You may look for ways to return. \_\_\_

You develop strategies to cope with difficulties and feelings, make new friends and learn to adapt to the host culture. \_\_\_

You accept the cultural differences. You see the host as your new home. You don't really want to go back or leave new friends. \_\_\_

You incorporate new knowledge and experiences from abroad into your new life and career. \_\_\_

You gradually adjust to life at home. Things seem more normal again but not exactly the same. \_\_\_

b)  Listen and put the speaker's letter (A) on the line to show their position at the time of the interview.

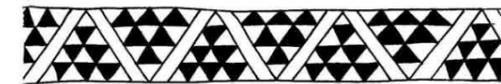
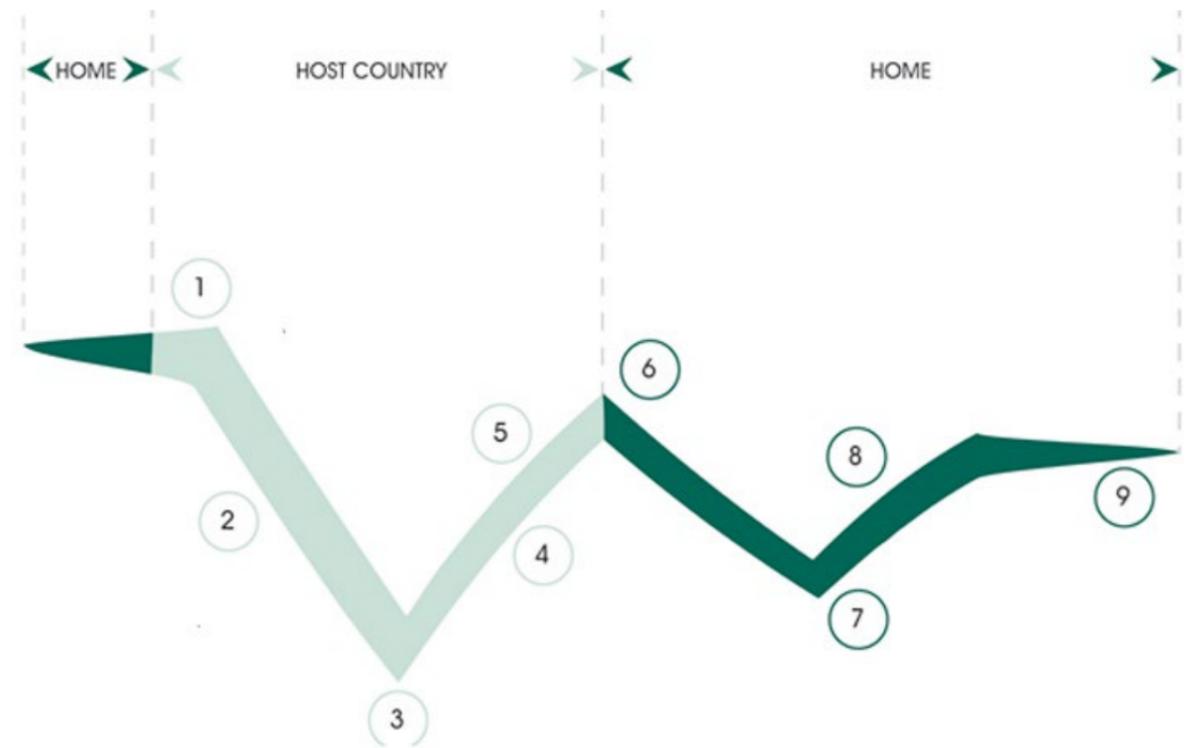
c) Put a star \* on the line for **your** personal position today.

d) In small groups check your answers and compare your positions on the curves.

How do you feel now? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the closest on the curve to you? Name (s) : \_\_\_\_\_

Have they been in this country longer than you? Yes/No



### 3. Learning about reasons for culture shock [Useful words to help you](#)

a) These are some of the most important reasons for your position on the curve.

Put the following in order of importance for yourself:

1 is the most important and 10 is the least important. Sometimes two or more have the same importance:

I have a lot of patience when communication is probably because of cultural differences. \_\_\_\_\_

I keep trying to understand and solve any intercultural miscommunication. \_\_\_\_\_

I stay positive when cultural differences become difficult to understand or are completely different to my own values. \_\_\_\_\_

I have had a lot of good experiences with my host culture. \_\_\_\_\_

I have had a lot of bad experiences with my host culture. \_\_\_\_\_

I can change easily to make cultural differences less important to me. \_\_\_\_\_

I have a lot of foreign friends here to help me understand cultural difficulties. \_\_\_\_\_

I can manage my stress without help. \_\_\_\_\_

I live with my family and do not mix with other cultures so I do not need to make any changes. \_\_\_\_\_

Another person always makes the decisions for me so I do not need to make any changes. \_\_\_\_\_

I always feel lucky and fate helps me overcome difficulties. \_\_\_\_\_

b) Compare your answers with someone NOT sitting near to you.

My partner has nearly the same answers as me.  My partner is completely different to me.

# Social Organisation

## 1. Your social support network *Useful words to help you*

a) How important are friends when you need help in a stressful situation and why?

How many of your friends are from a different culture? \_\_\_\_\_

b) Think of an important but stressful situation. Think about your friends or close family members. Look at the following questions with a partner and answer how often they do things for you - always, usually, sometimes, hardly ever, never etc

Write S or D for your partner's answers at the end of each sentence:

- i) They listen to you and talk with you whenever you feel lonely or depressed. \_\_\_\_
  - ii) They explain and help you understand the local culture and communication. \_\_\_\_
  - iii) They provide necessary information to help you with your new environment. \_\_\_\_
  - iv) They help you interpret things, not just translate the meaning. \_\_\_\_
  - v) They show you how to do something new. \_\_\_\_
  - vi) They show you support and care for you. \_\_\_\_
  - vii) They explain things to make your situation clearer. \_\_\_\_
  - viii) They tell you about other ways, choices or options to solve the stressful situation. \_\_\_\_
  - ix) They speak English better than you. \_\_\_\_
  - x) They have lived here longer than you. \_\_\_\_
  - xi) They stay positive and encourage you to be positive \_\_\_\_
  - xii) They take you out of your home and do things in the local area. \_\_\_\_
- How many of your answers were the same? (S) \_\_\_\_

c) Match the 6 pictures on the next page to ideas in i-xii. Some can match more than one.



### Problem solving

**There is no right or wrong answer to this problem.**

You passed your English test well and now it is time to decide about the next course. It was very hard for you because four nights a week you had a part time job as a cleaner to pay for your student loan. At the weekend you helped your family in their small business with your 4 brothers and sisters. You had a really close helpful foreign friend from class and you studied together. They are going to study art and music. You often play music with them in a group after class and your teacher thinks your drawing is great. You'd love to be a designer or musician and your teacher recommended this course for you too.

However, your family expect you to take a business course and run the family business in three years. You need a student loan for your next course too, you are worried because the business course has a lot of assignments and it is going to be very difficult for you. Maybe it is going to take more than 3 years. You think you can easily pass the art/music course and maybe get a job in this area. What do you do?

**Discuss your answer with another student.**

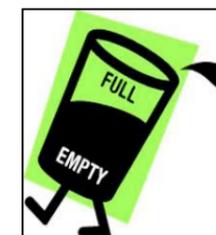
- My partner has nearly the same answer as me. O
- My partner is completely different to me. O

## 2. Finding out about other students' culture *useful words to help you*

Talk to everybody and write one name on the right.

Find one person who...

- has been here less time than you \_\_\_\_\_
- lives with their parents or extended family \_\_\_\_\_
- comes from the dominant cultural group in their country \_\_\_\_\_
- usually only mixes with their own cultural group outside of class \_\_\_\_\_
- has strong religious beliefs \_\_\_\_\_
- finds it easy to adapt to new cultural differences \_\_\_\_\_
- is nearly always a very positive person \_\_\_\_\_
- successfully handles stress from intercultural communication \_\_\_\_\_
- has experienced culture shock before \_\_\_\_\_
- has experienced re-entry shock already from their last travels \_\_\_\_\_





# Reflections



1. Look at least three different partner's results of this unit.

Who from another culture thinks nearly the same as you? (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Think about one partner from another culture. Does this person:

- have the same gender? Yes/No
- have the same religion? Yes/No
- have nearly the same age as you? Yes/No
- come from the same part of the world eg Asia or central Europe? Yes/No
- have the same family position eg single teenager or society eg upper class? Yes/No
- have nearly the same family values not because of religion? Yes/No

2. Choose the best answer for you:

1=Strongly agree 2= agree a bit 3= disagree a bit 4= strongly disagree

- a) I believe my culture has the best lifestyles. \_\_\_\_
- b) My culture has better technology and industry than other cultures. \_\_\_\_
- c) Problems between different cultures speaking English is only because of language level and pronunciation. \_\_\_\_
- d) Globalisation is changing my culture. \_\_\_\_
- e) Language is only words. \_\_\_\_
- f) The dominant culture should decide everything in society. \_\_\_\_
- g) In my culture the individual is more important than the group. \_\_\_\_
- h) Change is sometimes uncomfortable but it is necessary. \_\_\_\_

3. What was the most interesting thing about culture from all of the units and why?

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## Plans for the future



I am going to think more carefully about my communication with someone from a different culture.

Yes/No/Maybe

I am going to look carefully at a person's body language to help me understand. Yes/No/Maybe

I am going to be more patient with other nationalities when we communicate. Yes/No/Maybe

I am going to show an interest in other people's culture. Yes/No/Maybe

I am going to educate my children about my culture. Yes/No/Maybe

I am going to respect other cultures. Yes/No/Maybe

I am never going to .....

.....

## 13.1 audio

At first it was all excitement and joy. You know....all those things you wanted while you were away. For me it was mainly food, friends and family. I am not really the kind that goes out to night clubs a lot. But that feeling quickly changed to frustration. I wanted people to take off their shoes at the door, like it was in Japan. New Zealanders don't usually do that and some friends were annoyed - especially my girlfriends with their new heels! Arh....It took awhile but I gradually I, you know, adapted. These days I am pretty happy, richer I guess for the experience of living in another culture. Some things I have taken from my old life in Japan but other things are just memories. Nah, I'm not the same but nearly.

## 2. Answers

You are excited about returning home. 6 Everything is new, interesting and exciting. 1 You may feel homesick, depressed and helpless. 3 Differences become apparent and irritating. Problems occur and frustration starts. 2 You may feel frustrated, angry or lonely because your family and old friends don't understand you in another country. People don't understand how you changed. You miss the host culture and friends. You may look for ways to return. 7 You develop strategies to cope with difficulties and feelings, make new friends and learn to adapt to the host culture. 4 You accept the cultural differences. You see the host as your new home. You don't really want to go back or leave new friends. 5 You incorporate new knowledge and experiences from abroad into your new life and career. 8 You gradually adjust to life at home. Things seem more normal again but not exactly the same. 9

## Further Reading:

[Cross cultural communication](#)

[Cross - cultural mistakes](#)

[Body language](#)

[Changing minds with body language](#)

[Intercultural communication in ESOL classes](#)