

UNIT

5

# CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD



Scan for Audio

## WHAT YOU WILL DO IN THIS UNIT

- A Reading** Read about different cultures
- B Listening** Listen to people talk about different cultural values
- C Speaking** Explain differences between your culture and another
- D Writing** Write a guide on the dos and don'ts of your country
- E Project** Create a fantasy world with its own culture

## Look at the photo and answer the questions.

1. Where do you think the photo was taken?
2. What are the people in the photos doing?
3. What are some examples of cultural practices?
4. What are some characteristics of your culture?

# A

## Reading

**Aim** Read about different cultures

### Vocabulary

1 Listen and number.  5-01 



5

pause



6

diverse



2

identity



3

aspect



8

overwhelm



7

campus



1

reserved



4

outgoing

**2** Fill in the blanks with the best vocabulary words. Two words will not be used.

1. Terry is quiet and reserved, but he tells great jokes.
2. I really like Jen. She's energetic, friendly, and fun to hang out with. She's really outgoing!
3. One aspect of Mexican culture I really enjoy is the music.
4. Loud noises often overwhelm me. I sometimes have to leave parties and concerts.
5. There was an awkward pause in the conversation.
6. I'm so glad I chose to study abroad. I've made such a(n) diverse group of friends.

## Pre-reading

③ Look at the pictures and guess the correct countries.

Italy

the United States

Egypt

Japan

Thailand

Mexico



Japan



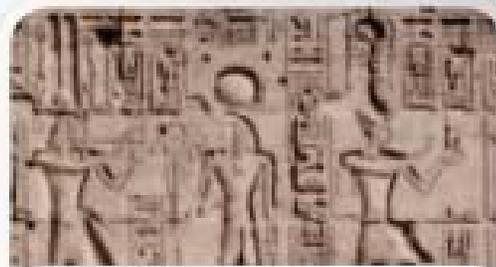
Mexico



Italy



the United States



Egypt



Thailand



## FROM MY CULTURE TO YOURS

When I first arrived in America, I was pretty reserved. I couldn't help but wonder if I'd fit in. One thing I noticed as soon as I stepped off the plane was the sea of diverse faces! [a] Such diversity makes America a fascinating place because I get to see and experience different lifestyles.

Aside from being far more outgoing, Americans are also into a lot of different activities. [b] It seems like there's a club for everything here! One day, our school hosted a huge club fair. I could hardly believe how many booths there were, and the campus was packed. By far, the coolest club I saw was the robotics club. I wondered if club members got to build actual robots that walked and talked and stuff.

I was about to register, but then I paused for a second. I felt dizzy. I started considering everything I didn't know about robots. I felt so overwhelmed. I didn't know whether I should join or not. Plus, there were so many clubs to choose from. What if one of them was even more fun? That was when a girl did something really cool: she shook my hand, and then she said, "*konnichiwa!*"—hello! [c] It reminded me of home; I couldn't help but smile.

It turns out my newfound friend Lila, who is the current president of the robotics club, had spent some time living in Japan! She told me she knew all about the overwhelming feelings that can come with culture shock. [d]

We went to a restaurant for lunch, which was the first time I'd gone to a sit-down restaurant in America. Instead of just getting takeout or grabbing a coffee to go, Lila and I talked for hours. It turns out that she has some Japanese heritage, though she's spent most of her life in America. [e] Lila spoke about how complicated it can be when you don't know all the local customs, and she told me some funny stories from her time in Japan. We also talked about how diversity enriches us as individuals and adds immeasurably to our identities.



## Comprehension

### 5 Circle the answers.

1. What is the writer's purpose in writing this?
  - a. to talk about her travels
  - c. to describe her experience in America
  - b. to talk about her best friend
  - d. to describe her new friendship
2. What did the speaker do at the robotics booth?
  - a. She registered for the club.
  - b. She made a friend.
  - c. She became president.
  - d. She built a robot.
3. What is meant by the term "culture shock"?
  - a. Cultural differences can be surprising.
  - b. It can be difficult to adjust to a new culture.
  - c. Differences in culture can be confusing.
  - d. All answers are correct.
4. Based on the reading, what is NOT true about Americans and their culture?
  - a. They mostly eat "to-go" meals.
  - b. They like to do lots of activities.
  - c. They are friendly and outgoing.
  - d. They are a diverse group of people.
5. What's the most likely reason Lila was in Japan?
  - a. She has Japanese relatives.
  - b. She went to school in Japan.
  - c. She was building robots.
  - d. She was learning Japanese.

**6 Circle the best place for each sentence to be included in the text.**

- |  |            |            |            |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. We discussed different aspects of the two cultures.                         | [a]        | [b]        | [c]        | [d]        | <b>[e]</b> |
| 2. Apparently, lots of people have a hard time moving from country to country. | [a]        | [b]        | [c]        | <b>[d]</b> | [e]        |
| 3. I was impressed and surprised by her outgoing nature.                       | [a]        | [b]        | <b>[c]</b> | [d]        | [e]        |
| 4. There are many different types of people living in this country.            | <b>[a]</b> | [b]        | [c]        | [d]        | [e]        |
| 5. Popular pastimes range from collecting bugs to flying kites.                | [a]        | <b>[b]</b> | [c]        | [d]        | [e]        |

**7 Discuss with a partner. What do you know about American culture? How does it differ from your culture?**

# B

## Listening

**Aim** Listen to people talk about different cultural values

### Vocabulary

1 Listen and number.

Track 5-03



**NOTE**

The addition of *dis-* to a base word gives the word the opposite meaning.



5 familiar / unfamiliar



6 peculiar



4 manners



2 obey / disobey



8 strict



7 vary



1 exceptional



3 concept

**2 Match the words with the definitions.**

- |                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| 1. obey        | • | a. to know something or somebody well                            |
| 2. vary        | • | b. always behaving in a specific way because of beliefs or rules |
| 3. concept     | • | c. odd and unusual, sometimes used in a negative way             |
| 4. strict      | • | d. to listen to; to do what you're told                          |
| 5. exceptional | • | e. a set of behaviors done because they're considered polite     |
| 6. peculiar    | • | f. very good; among the best                                     |
| 7. be familiar | • | g. to differ from something of a similar type                    |
| 8. manners     | • | h. an idea about a particular subject                            |
-

# Authentic Conversation

**NOTE**

*In a class of its own means something is the best of the best!*

## 3 Talk with a partner.



Li

Welcome to the US. What do you think of the country so far?

I think it's pretty great! The entertainment here is exceptional!

Really? What type of entertainment are you most into?

Movies! American movies are really in a class of their own.

Interesting. What about your home country? What do you like about it?

I don't know. Everything back home is so familiar. It gets kind of repetitive. I guess one thing I like is how well-mannered everyone back home is.



Aaron

## 4 Discuss with a partner.

1. Are there any types of entertainment (music, TV, movies, books, games) from other countries that you really enjoy? Describe them.
2. What can you learn about other countries and cultures from the types of entertainment they produce?

## Grammar

### 5 Look at the table.

Comparatives and Superlatives		
Comparative adjectives are used to compare two nouns.		Superlative adjectives are used to compare three or more nouns: showing the noun with the highest degree.
Base Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
strict	stricter, less strict	the strictest, the least strict
pretty	prettier, less pretty	the prettiest, the least pretty
exceptional	more exceptional less exceptional	the most exceptional the least exceptional
Expressions with Comparatives and Superlatives		
The price of tickets got <i>higher and higher</i> .		The band grew <i>more and more</i> popular.
The <i>more expensive</i> it is, <i>the better</i> .		It's <i>one of the cleanest</i> campuses in America.
Things are <i>much / a lot / far / considerably</i> cheaper.		Things are <i>by far / far and away</i> the cheapest.

### 6 Fill in the blanks and circle the correct comparatives or superlatives.

- The longer (long) I watch this show, the happier / happiest / more happy I feel.
- The crazier (crazy) the weather, the less / more / worse the roads got.
- Jim grew lonely and loneliest / lonelier and lonelier / loner and loner the farther (far) he moved from home.
- The less / more better I stared, the more I thought that the kitty was one of the cutest (cute) pets I'd ever seen.
- Although the campus was by far more / most expensive than others, it was by far / more / most the best.

## Listen Up

### 7 Listen and circle the answers. 5-04

1. What was Matt's speech mainly about?  
a. Japanese manners      b. Japanese machines       c. Japanese culture      d. Japanese technology
2. Which of these items is more likely to be in a Japanese vending machine than an American one?  
 a. toothbrushes      b. ice cream bars      c. coffee      d. bubblegum
3. What is NOT true about Japan?  
a. There are busy subways.      b. There are lots of people.  
 c. There are few rules.      d. There are many customs.
4. Matt says that Japanese homes and apartments are \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. expensive      b. clean       c. small      d. beautiful

### 8 Listen again and circle true, false, or doesn't say. 5-04

- |   |                                       |  |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. Matt studied robots in Japan.                                    | true                                  | false                                  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> doesn't say |
| 2. Heated toilet seats were one thing in Japan that surprised Matt. | <input checked="" type="radio"/> true | false                                  | doesn't say                                  |
| 3. Matt would sometimes buy his lunches from vending machines.      | <input checked="" type="radio"/> true | false                                  | doesn't say                                  |
| 4. Matt thinks Japan is similar to America.                         | true                                  | <input checked="" type="radio"/> false | doesn't say                                  |

### 9 Talk with a partner. What are some differences between Japan and your country?

# C

## Speaking

**Aim** Explain differences between your culture and another

### Vocabulary

1 Read the words in the box. Then listen and write the vocabulary word you hear.  5-05 

criticize  
accent

major / minor  
insult

frustrating  
straightforward

native  
harsh

1.



**insult**

2.



**frustrating**

3.



**harsh**

4.



**native**

5.



**straightforward**

6.



**major**

7.



**accent**

8.



**criticize**

② **Fill in the blanks with the best vocabulary words.**

1. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ **insult** \_\_\_\_\_ someone just because you don't understand their culture. It's rude.
2. Don't worry! People will still understand you if you make \_\_\_\_\_ **minor** \_\_\_\_\_ pronunciation errors.
3. Did you hear her \_\_\_\_\_ **accent** \_\_\_\_\_? I wonder where she's from.
4. If you have to \_\_\_\_\_ **criticize** \_\_\_\_\_ someone's writing, try to do it politely.
5. That teacher often makes \_\_\_\_\_ **harsh** \_\_\_\_\_ comments. Don't worry about it. She is just trying to help.
6. He might sound like he's from here, but he's not a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ **native** \_\_\_\_\_ speaker.
7. I can't understand this assignment! It's very \_\_\_\_\_ **frustrating** \_\_\_\_\_.
8. I got lost twice. I thought the directions would be more \_\_\_\_\_ **straightforward** \_\_\_\_\_.

## Authentic Conversation

- ③ **Talk with a partner. Change the conversation to talk about different countries.**

### NOTE

An *accent* is a way of pronouncing things usually associated with a particular nation, area, or social class. A *dialect* includes accents but also includes changes in grammar and vocabulary.



Ben

I'm from Germany.

I noticed you have an accent. Where are you from?

Wow. I had no idea. Is it true that Germans are very straightforward people?

Hmm. I don't like to talk for others. I think I'm pretty straightforward, though.

Oh, I hope I didn't insult you.

No, of course not. I'm interested in learning about your country as well.



Jennie

- ④ **Discuss with a partner.**

1. Do people in your country have different accents or dialects? How do they differ?

**5** Read the article. Fill in the blanks with the words in the box. Two of the words will not be used.

frustrating  
minor

harsh  
accent

insult  
straightforward

major  
criticize

Singapore is an island that is located at the southern tip of the Malaysian peninsula. Luckily for tourists, most of the rules are pretty 1. **straightforward**. However, there are a couple you should learn before visiting.

First of all, you cannot sell gum there or bring more than two packs of it into the country. The law was written because people were using it to block the public transit's electronic equipment, which caused trains to be delayed.

This became very 2. **frustrating** to the people who were always late for work. In fact, it was such a(n)

3. **major** problem that Singapore's government implemented a \$1,000 fine for those caught

discarding their gum. This may seem like a(n) 4. **harsh** punishment, but it helps to keep the city

looking its best. Once you understand this issue, it's hard to 5. **criticize** Singapore for deciding on this large fine.

Another taboo is patting people on the head. Head patting is considered to be a(n) 6. **insult**. While this action won't result in a monetary fine, it definitely won't make you popular with the locals.

## Speak Up

- ⑥ Talk with a partner. Compare your culture with another country's culture. Write down some differences and make comparisons.

Other Culture	My Culture	Comparison
<b>Ex.</b> It's very important not to litter. The fine is very high.	<b>Ex.</b> It's important not to litter. There is a small fine.	<b>Ex.</b> Singapore has stricter laws on littering.

- ⑦ Use the information from the table in ⑥ to create a fun advertisement for tourists.



Our food is *spicier!*



We're the best place to visit because:

---



---



---



---



Our city is the *prettiest!*

- ⑧ On a separate piece of paper, create a fun advertisement for your country and share with the group.

# D

## Writing

**Aim** Write a guide on the dos and don'ts of your country

### Vocabulary

1 Listen and number.

Track 5-06



6

knock



7

indicate



1

host



3

gesture



8

lap



5

honor



4

specific



2

approve /  
disapprove

**2 Match the words with the definitions.**

- |             |   |   |  |
|-------------|---|---|--|
| 1. honor    | • | • | a. the upper legs' top surfaces when sitting               |
| 2. approve  | • | • | b. to show respect for someone or something                |
| 3. gesture  | • | • | c. to hit something repeatedly, making a noise             |
| 4. lap      | • | • | d. to make clear or show in some way                       |
| 5. host     | • | • | e. about one thing in particular                           |
| 6. knock    | • | • | f. a physical movement used to express something           |
| 7. specific | • | • | g. someone who throws a party or has guests                |
| 8. indicate | • | • | h. to feel positive or have a good opinion about something |
-

## Grammar

### ③ Look at the table.

Bare Infinitives	
The infinitive form of a verb is used to describe an action of a non-finite duration. A bare infinitive is the same as an infinitive form, only without the word "to."	
after the verb <i>do / don't</i>	<i>Don't look!</i>
after modal auxiliary verbs ( <i>will, could, can, should, may, might, must, needn't</i> )	You <i>needn't criticize</i> his clothing!
after verbs of perception ( <i>see, watch, hear, feel, sense</i> )	We <i>heard her speak</i> German.
after verbs of permission ( <i>make, bid, let, have</i> )	She <i>let him use</i> her chopsticks.
after <i>had better</i> or <i>would rather</i>	You <i>had better go</i> to the cultural fair.
With <i>why</i>	<i>Why wait?</i>

### ④ Circle the bare infinitives.

1. She made him **apologize** because he was being insulting.
2. If you're going out to eat tonight, why not **visit** the Italian restaurant?
3. He'd heard her **talk** and guessed she was from somewhere in England.
4. You shouldn't **sit** on the beach all summer—you'll get burned!
5. Would you rather **watch** a horror movie or a romance?

## Writing Guide

⑤ Look at the table.

Expository Writing	
Usage	Tips
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explain a subject</li><li>• Give directions or instructions</li><li>• Show how something works</li><li>• Show the order of things</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use a topic sentence to let the reader know what you're writing about</li><li>• Assume the reader has no knowledge about the subject</li><li>• Write a conclusion</li></ul>
Examples of expository writing: rules of a game, a recipe, a textbook, a newspaper article	
Remember: You're not trying to persuade the reader, you're trying to inform them.	

6 Read the guide. Circle the bare infinitives.

NOTE

*Beat around the bush* means to avoid talking about something in a straightforward way.

Introduce Your Topic

Welcome to Germany! Here are a couple of rules you might not know about our country. Please honor our customs if you choose to visit our country.

Dos	Don'ts
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Be</b> direct. Germans don't <b>appreciate</b> it when you <b>beat</b> around the bush.</li><li>2. Do <b>knock</b> on the door if it's closed.</li><li>3. Do <b>use</b> a "thumbs up" gesture to show you approve of something.</li><li>4. Do <b>keep</b> your hands off of your lap when eating.</li><li>5. Do <b>eat</b> everything on your plate. It shows your host that you appreciated their meal.</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Don't <b>point</b> your finger to your head. Doing this is considered an insult.</li><li>2. Don't <b>chew</b> gum or <b>place</b> your hand in your pocket when talking. It's considered disrespectful and bad-mannered.</li><li>3. Don't <b>enter</b> someone's house with your shoes on.</li><li>4. Don't <b>be</b> early. But don't <b>be</b> late. Simply <b>be</b> on time!</li><li>5. Don't <b>disrespect</b> quiet hours. Sundays are rest days, even in the privacy of your own home. Be quiet, please!</li></ol>

Thanks—*danke*—for checking out our guide to Germany!  
We hope to see you soon!



**7 Discuss with a partner.**

1. Does your country have similar rules to Germany? Which ones?
2. Do any of the gestures and actions mentioned have a different meaning in your country?

## Writing

8 Create a guide for your country.

Dos	Don'ts
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

9 Talk with a partner. Discuss your different dos and don'ts and why you think they're important.

# E

## Project

**Aim** Create a fantasy world with its own culture

### Video

- 1 Look at the pictures. What do you think the video will be about? On a separate piece of paper, write a short summary of what you think will happen. Then talk with a partner.
- 2 Watch the video. Number the pictures in order.

Video 5



**3 Watch again. Circle the words you hear.**

Video 5

peculiar

gesture

reserved

manners

lap

obey

minor

unfamiliar

**4 Watch again. Circle the answers.**

Video 5

1. Burble wishes the parade had been

a. quieter

b. louder

c. brighter

d. all

2. What did Karble do that was bad manners?

a. She ate hot food.

b. She used a napkin.

c. She put her elbows on the table.

d. She wore the wrong clothes to dinner.

3. Karble finds the food to be a little \_\_\_\_\_ than she's used to.

a. spicy

b. most spicy

c. spiciest

d. spicier

4. What is NOT true about Karble and Burble's adventure?

a. They ate together.

b. They littered together.

c. They cleaned together.

d. They were in a parade together.

- 5 Look at the pictures. On a separate piece of paper, write what Karble and Burble are doing and describe how they feel about it.





# Century Skills

Welcome to My World

Critical Thinking

Creativity

- 6 Write a list of differences between the real world and a fantasy universe, such as the Harry Potter universe or the Hobbit universe. Research online or use information from stories (books, movies, etc.) that you know.

Fantasy World	Real World
 A black silhouette of a fairy with large, intricate wings, sitting on a crescent moon. There are small stars around the moon.	 A line drawing of a person sitting at a desk, leaning their head on their hand and appearing to be asleep. There are three thought bubbles above their head, with the largest one containing the letters 'ZZ'.

**7 Create your own fantasy world in the space below.**

Welcome to the land of \_\_\_\_\_, also known as "the \_\_\_\_\_ universe."

What we've got that your world doesn't:

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---

Why you should join us:

---

---

A couple of reasons why you might want to stay home instead:

---

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### MINI-GUIDE

#### LAWS

Minor "no-nos"

Major "no-nos"

#### MANNERS

Dos

Don'ts

- 8 Present your new world to the class.**
- 9 Discuss which rules you think would or wouldn't work. Discuss which manners you think would or wouldn't work.**