



Vocabulary & Pronunciation / Level 3

Unit 5 - Culture



About this eBook

This eBook goes together with the audio that you can download free from Zappenglish.com. If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please visit our website – we always value your opinion. Good luck! Katie, Tom & Mark



Introduction

In this unit, you'll learn fifteen new words to use when talking about culture, and you'll also develop your pronunciation with these words.

Vocabulary Task 1

You're going to hear some questions containing words we might use when talking about culture. Do you know any of the words? Which ones are new to you?

Do you think it's difficult for immigrants to adapt to a completely new culture?

Can you give an example of a British ceremony and a tradition?

Are there any customs you have experienced that you thought were really interesting?

In your experience, which countries have been very friendly to you as a stranger?

What's the stereotype of a British person and is it true?

How were you treated as a foreigner in....?

Meaning and Pronunciation Task 1

OK, what can you remember? Let's check and do some work on pronunciation. Don't forget to repeat after you hear the beep.

There are two words with a very similar meaning. The first one is something that people do as their habit, for example eat with their left hand, or take off their shoes before entering a house.

a **custom**

a **custom**

The stress is on the first syllable, so the second sound is weak.

a **custom**



This word which is very similar and really you can use it to mean the same thing is...

a **tradition**

A **tradition** takes longer to create than a custom, but they are almost the same.

a **tradition** Listen to the last syllable /ʃən/. **tradition**

Each country has their own customs and traditions. What's the word for a celebration or event that's part of a tradition or custom?

a **ceremony**

Four syllables. a **ceremony**

The wedding **ceremony** was very long.

There were two words for people you don't know. One means someone you haven't met before. What's this?

a **stranger**

Listen to the end sound /ə/ a **stranger**

I've never seen him before, he's a **stranger**.

The other word just means someone from another country.

a **foreigner**

It has the same end sound /ə/ a **foreigner**

So are **strangers** and **foreigners** the same? No. A foreigner isn't a stranger if you know them.

He's a **foreigner** but not a **stranger**.

What's the word for a picture we have, of all people from certain cultures, that's like a typical picture, but it may not really be true?

a **stereotype**

a **stereotype** a **stereotype**



What's the word for a person who comes to live in a country from another country?

an **immigrant**

Is an **immigrant** the same as a **foreigner**? No. A **foreigner** might only be in a country for a holiday. An immigrant has moved their life.

an **immigrant**

Three syllables, the last sound is /ənt/.

an **immigrant** an **immigrant**

If you move to a new country, you may need to change your ideas or what you do a little bit so that you deal with a new situation. What's the verb for this?

to **adapt**

to **adapt** It takes a while to **adapt** to a new culture.

So, we've looked at eight new words in the first section. Let's move on.

Vocabulary and Listening Task 1

Here come the questions along with some answers. Listen and see if you would answer in the same way, and see which words from the list you hear.

KATIE: Do you think it's difficult for **immigrants** to **adapt** to a completely new culture?

NIALL: I think, with...a lot of the **immigrants** we get specifically in the UK...they're very very different cultures to what we have in the UK, so **adapting** or changing, could be...very hard for them, but there's also an argument to say that, should a gr...**immigrants** into a country have to **adapt** to that country's culture? Part of me says no they shouldn't. They should bring in their own culture, and they should...they shouldn't...should...sorry they shouldn't have to change, because their culture, makes...the whole culture of the country they are moving to or emigrating to, better.

KATIE: Can you give an example of a British **ceremony**, and **tradition**?



NIAL: For a **ceremony**, I would probably say, University graduation. We've taken on quite recently...a similar version to an American **ceremony** for graduation but it's a lot more restrained hence it's a lot more British. We do things like, you throw your hat in the air, but it's very very British in...the pomp that's...that's put onto it by wearing all the University gowns, you've got to go and hire that, you go and get your little scroll, to say yes you've graduated, you've completed the course. It...so it...I would say that was British **ceremony**. Erm, a British **tradition** on the other hand, would be more like a Sunday dinner to me. Er it's something that the British do, they've always done, it's accepted that they do do it...and it's basically done without fail.

KATIE: Are there any **customs** that you've experienced that you think are really interesting, in any particular country?

NIAL: Erm...I like in a few different countries where everyone has to do something. Er I mean in Greece, I think it could exist in Spain as well...everyone has to spend a year in the army. Whereas in Thailand, it's more...a **custom** there that everyone has to spend a year being a Buddhist, or training to be a Buddhist monk. I think that...year that everyone has to do, whichever way it is...puts, a lot more structure into a young person's life. They know it's coming, they can plan round it, and they get a year, being in an environment which is very very organised, very very structured and they have very defined...things that they have to do and follow. I think...it should bring them out at the end of it, as a more rounded person.

KATIE: In your experience which countries, have been very friendly to you as a **stranger**? Or people have been friendly to you as a **stranger**.

NIAL: The two I would probably pick, and I've been to quite a few countries throughout the world, I travelled quite extensively with my mam and my dad...but the two I would...I would pick, **is two countries** that definitely stand out, would be Greece and Thailand. I just think that their ethic...and their fundamental strive, for families...families being a...a main part of their culture and a main part of...their lives, it extends past their families and it...if you go into their country they will do anything they possibly can to make you happy.

KATIE: What's the **stereotype** of a British person? And is it true?

NIAL: Ooh...**stereotype** of being British...I think **there's lots** of different ones and it depends where you go in the world. Erm...I mean one of the **stereotypes** is, essentially, a drunk Briton. And you go to some places like, certain islands in Spain...erm...to a certain degree across to Thailand, and there's a very very strong **stereotype** of either a British person, lying in the gutter in a pair of shorts in a pair of trainers, no top...being sick through drink in Spain, and an old man...trying to make a relationship with a young Thai bride in Thailand. Erm, some of it is true. Unfortunately there is an element in the British population that...do all that and, will always do all that, but I think, as a whole



for the British people, those **stereotypes** are slowly being changed...erm by, just showing a bit more respect.

KATIE: And how have you been treated as a **foreigner** in various places?

NIAL: Erm generally you're welcomed a...or...generally I'm welcomed erm as a **foreigner** because...I think I try to be respectful to, the countries and the cultures that I go to, I try to learn a little bit, to make myself a bigger person...erm...and I think if you...if you try and do that, for example, learn how to say *please*, learn how to say *thank you* in the language, I think...people tend to look at you **different** and think this isn't the **stereotypical** British person, so I'll treat them...they're...they're making an effort to...to help me, by using a little bit of my language, so I will treat them...nicer than I would treat...a Brit that's just out to get drunk, cause a fight...have a kebab, go home.

Vocabulary Task 2

Again, you're going to hear some questions. Try and guess any words you don't know and think about the questions.

Do you think it's important for immigrants to integrate?

Do the British like to confront people do you think?

In your opinion, what's the greatest cuisine in the world?

Is ethnicity important?

Do you prefer to shake hands, hug or bow, when you first meet people?

Meaning and Pronunciation Task 2

So let's now check the words from the second part.

In some cultures, it's not polite to be too direct, or to deal with things in a direct way. You shouldn't (..?..) people.

confront



to **confront** It's better to be less direct than to **confront** him now.

What's the noun that describes which group you come from in your **customs** and **traditions** and perhaps your race?

ethnicity

ethnicity **ethnicity**

Which word means to become a full part of a society, to mix in, to become part of?

to **integrate**

to **integrate** The middle sound is /ə/. to **integrate**

Now we come to more **customs**. In lots of countries, when people first meet, they (..?..) hands.

shake hands

shake hands

Notice that the sound changes when we put the two words together – we lose the /h/ from hands, so it sounds like /ʃeɪkænz/

shake hands

In some countries they don't usually **shake hands**. They lower their heads and bend. What's the verb?

to **bow**

to **bow** In Japan some people **bow** when they meet.

What do we call it when you put your arms around another person and hold them?

to **hug**

Do you usually **hug** someone you don't know? Not usually. You might **hug** someone if they were crying.

to **hug** I need a **hug**.



And what do you call the food of a particular country, culture or area?

the **cuisine**

cuisine The local **cuisine** is delicious.

Vocabulary and Listening Task 2

Now listen to the questions with the answers. Are the words any easier this time, and do you agree with the answers you hear?

KATIE: Do you think it's important for **immigrants** to **integrate**?

KIM: Erm, I think most people, will be happier, in an environment where they feel they have **integrated**...erm, so yes, I suppose so. Erm...I've recently moved to Spain, and I'm doing my best to... erm...to meet Spanish people and learn about the **customs** and...and **traditions** so, yeah I think it's... it's best for everyone.

KATIE: Do the British like to **confront** people do you think?

KIM: Ooh erm...I think British people tend to be, quite reserved, so we'll probably, avoid **confrontation**, apart from maybe a small minority of people who, actively seek it.

KATIE: In your opinion, what's the greatest **cuisine** in the world?

KIM: Erm...well, I love Indian food...erm...and there's a great variety in Indian food, so yes, that's my choice. I think.

KATIE: Is **ethnicity** important?

KIM: Erm...I think it's probably a very personal thing, which is different for everybody. And, the way you define your **ethnicity**...erm, is very personal...er, for me, it's not, terribly important, but maybe if I...for example was from an **ethnic** minority living in the UK, then it would be a very important part of my...erm...identity and my...my history, erm but as I say, it's different for everybody.



KATIE: Do you prefer to **shake hands**, **hug**, or **bow** when you first meet people?

KIM: Hmm. Well...I think British people er, are more likely to go for a **handshake**, at first, erm, but, I live in Spain now, and so I'm getting used to, going straight in for a kiss. Left cheek first. Erm...er...yeah, I've never, never been in a **bowing** situation, but erm...yeah I...with a fr...with a friend it would be a **hug**. And er...I'm...getting used to the...the kissing thing now.

Summary

You should now know the meaning of the words from this unit about culture and be better at saying them. Congratulations.



Extra Materials

Vocabulary Glossary

to adapt /ədæpt/ (*verb*) - to change the way you do things so that you can deal with a new and different situation

an immigrant /ɪmɪgrənt/ (*noun*) - a person who comes to live in a country from another country

a ceremony /serəməni/ (*noun*) - something people in a culture do that has special words or acts

a tradition /trədlɪʃən/ (*noun*) - something that has always happened in a culture, an old belief or act

a custom /kʌstəm/ (*noun*) - the usual way of doing something

a stranger /streɪndʒə/ (*noun*) - someone you do not know

a foreigner /fɔːrɪnə/ (*noun*) - a person from another country

a stereotype /steriətaɪp/ (*noun*) - an idea people have about how another group of people are or behave, even though they may not have met someone from this group

to integrate /ɪntəgreɪt/ (*verb*) - to become a member of a group and be accepted

to confront /kənfrʌnt/ (*verb*) - to deal with something directly, rather than avoiding it or being indirect

cuisine /kwɪziːn/ (*noun*) - a particular way of cooking food in a country or area of a country

to shake hands /ʃeɪkændz/ (*verb*) - to greet someone by putting your hand in theirs and moving it up and down

to hug /hʌg/ (*verb*) - to put your arms around someone

to bow /baʊ/ (*verb*) - a way of greeting in Asia which shows respect, to bend at the waist and lower your head forwards

ethnicity /eθnɪsəti/ (*noun*) - the cultural group and/or race someone belongs to



Practice 1

Fill the gaps with a word or phrase from the unit.

When I first visited China on business, I expected everybody to _____ at me, but actually everybody _____ the same as in Europe. It was interesting being a _____ because everybody wanted to know about my country. China is an amazing country with lots of _____ and customs. In business I had to remember not to _____ people as in business you can't be too direct. Oh and the food was amazing – they have lots of different _____ from different regions of the country.

Practice 2

Choose the correct word.

1. In the middle of the *custom / tradition / ceremony*, they smash a plate.
2. Sometimes people have never met someone from my country before, so all they know about is the *stereotype / ethnicity*.
3. Why are you crying? Come here and let me give you a *handshake / hug / bow*.
4. I don't know his name; he's a *stranger / foreigner* to me.
5. We had to *adapt / integrate* our habits when we moved here.

Practice 3 - Pronunciation

Look at the underlined letter/s in the words. Do they sound the same? Yes or no?

1. to integrate a stereotype
2. an immigrant cuisine
3. a tradition a foreigner
4. to shake hands a stranger
5. a ceremony a stereotype



Extra Materials - Answers

Practice 1

When I first visited China on business, I expected everybody to **bow** at me, but actually everybody **shook hands** the same as in Europe. It was interesting being a **foreigner** because everybody wanted to know about my country. China is an amazing place with lots of **traditions** and customs. In business I had to remember not to **confront** people as you can't be too direct. Oh and the food was amazing – they have lots of different **cuisines** from different regions of the country.

Practice 2

1. In the middle of the ~~custom~~ / ~~tradition~~ / **ceremony**, they smash a plate.
2. Sometimes people have never met someone from my country before, so all they know about is the **stereotype** / ~~ethnicity~~.
3. Why are you crying? Come here and let me give you a ~~handshake~~ / **hug** / ~~bow~~.
4. I don't know his name; he's **a stranger** / ~~foreigner~~ to me.
5. We had to **adapt** / ~~integrate~~ our habits when we moved here.

Practice 3 - Pronunciation

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 1. to <u>i</u> ntegrate /ə/ | a <u>s</u> tereotype /e/ | No |
| 2. an <u>i</u> mmigrant /l/ | cui <u>s</u> ine /i:/ | No |
| 3. a <u>t</u> radition /ə/ | a fore <u>i</u> gner /ə/ | Yes |
| 4. to sh <u>a</u> ke hands /eI/ | a str <u>a</u> nger /eI/ | Yes |
| 5. a <u>c</u> eremony /e/ | a <u>s</u> tereotype /e/ | Yes |

