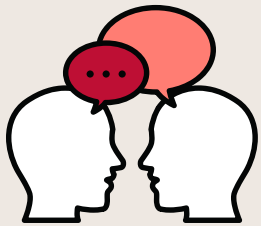


CULTURAL DIFFERENCES

WHAT CIVILITY MEANS AROUND THE WORLD

1) BODY LANGUAGE



The United States and many European countries such as Spain, France, and Germany see direct eye contact as a sign of honesty & respect for what the other person is saying. However, in some Latin-American, African, and Asian cultures, direct eye contact may be seen as aggressive, and avoiding eye contact is viewed as a sign of respect.

2) TIME AND PUNCTUALITY

In some countries such as the United States, Japan, and Germany, promptness and showing up at the agreed-upon time is expected and seen as respectful. However, other countries such as Jamaica, Cuba, and Argentina have a more relaxed culture where running late is common.



3) GREETINGS



Different countries practice different ways to greet one another. For example, Germans commonly shake hands with everyone in the room, Argentines give kisses on the cheek, and the Japanese bow.

4) LEAVING A TIP

Tipping is another action that is seen differently around the world. While in the United States & Canada tipping is the standard practice, countries such as Japan and South Korea see it as an insult.



5) LEISURE

Countries such as Greece, Italy, Spain, and the Philippines are known for a midday period of rest known as 'siestas'. During this time, businesses or services may be closed and resting is encouraged. While traveling, it is important to respect this period of rest.

