

Worksheet #7:

Understanding Cultural Viewpoints (Part 2)

Directions: In this part of the lesson, imagine how some of the same behaviors would be perceived or interpreted by someone from a culture different from your own. A different cultural trait is described in each case. Read each behavior and the description of the culture, and then write in the space provided how you think a person from such a culture would interpret that behavior. If you need more space, use the other side of this page.

1. A person comes to a meeting half an hour after the scheduled starting time. How would this act be interpreted . . . by someone from a culture where it is normal to arrive half an hour—even two hours—after the scheduled starting time?

The response or interpretation:

(Sample response: It's no big deal. We'll start when everybody's here.)

2. Someone kicks a dog. How would this act be interpreted . . . by someone from a country where dogs tend to carry disease and food is scarce?

The response or interpretation:

3. A woman carries a heavy jug of water on her head while her husband walks in front of her carrying nothing. How would this be interpreted . . . by someone from a culture where carrying water is a woman's responsibility?

The response or interpretation:

4. A male guest helps a female host carry dirty dishes into the kitchen. How would this act be interpreted . . . by someone from a culture where men are not expected to clean up after a meal?

The response or interpretation:

5. A young man and young woman are kissing each other in public. How would this act be interpreted . . . by someone from a culture where men and women never touch in public?

The response or interpretation:

6. While taking an exam, a student copies from the paper of another student. How would this act be interpreted . . . by someone from a culture where it is expected that you help a friend succeed, and sharing is the norm?

The response or interpretation:

7. A guest at a dinner party belches aloud after the main course. How would this act be interpreted . . . by someone from a culture where belching is the normal way to express pleasure about food?

The response or interpretation: