







What is culture?





Culture is the characteristics that define a group of people. It can include beliefs, customs, traditions, values and symbols. We think of culture as something that represents nationalities, but it could represent any group - religion, age, race, anything at all!



Every single dictionary or definition tool provides a different definition for "culture" but we like to think of it as the characteristics that define a group of people. People who belong to a certain group tend to have similar traits. This could be likes and dislikes, religious beliefs, values, behaviour in society or ethics.



When we talk about culture, the first thing that comes to mind is nationality culture and the way the culture in each country differs. However, culture can apply to any single group of people that has similar traits. This could be a local culture of a certain town or village, it could be organisational culture within a company or it could be a religious culture. It could also be argued that we live under one global culture that all of humanity shares. With the increase of media and telecommunications that connect the world together, the term "one global village" has been coined.



Many would argue that **cultural uniqueness** is important for humanity. It's our differences that make us interesting and individual. However, whilst culture is important to many groups of people, it has also been the catalyst for a lot of global unrest. **Cultural conflicts** have often been the cause of wars and **civil unrest**.



With increasing globalisation, the world has become a more open place in the more recent years but culture conflict does still exist. In some cases, stereotypes of a certain culture could cause offence. Just because a person comes from a certain group, it doesn't necessarily mean they have all the cultural traits. There are lots of cultural misconceptions too with people simply not knowing about cultures other than their own. In cases where people travel or move abroad, this has been so extreme, it's led to culture shock.



Cultural diversity has become a theme of the 21st century with companies and governments working hard to ensure their public platforms speak for and represent all cultures. However, culture clash can and does exist. While a behaviour may be culturally acceptable in one culture, it could be deemed offensive and unethical in another, leading to conflict.

The world must work towards this idea of "one global village", break down cultural barriers and be more open-minded to learn about and accept that other cultures in the world do exist.





Practice 1

It's conversion time!

https://virtually-fluent.com/wp-content/uploads/202 1/08/11-Culture-Conversation.pdf





Practice 2

Tell us about your culture. Use the topic flashcards to guide you.



food



music



celebrations



art



literature



drink



religion



social habits



language



sport



clothing



politics



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Any questions?









REVIEW



Culture





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WRITE ABOUT YOUR CULTURE

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