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Culture Shock

Preview

Answer the questions. Then talk about your answers.

- 1) What does “culture shock” mean?
- 2) What stereotypes about the British do you know?
- 3) What difficulties can you come across when you visit Great Britain?
- 4) What specific characteristics do the Russians possess?

I. READING

Read and translate the text

CULTURE SHOCK



Laszlo - Well, I think sometimes yes. English people can be so polite that you don't really understand them. For example, I went to London with some other teachers from Hungary to do a training course for teachers of English. It was a special course for foreign teachers. During the course the tutors, the people who were teaching us, talked to us a lot about our progress - and we thought we were all doing really well. So we were very very surprised when some of us failed the course! What had happened was that the English tutors were so polite when they gave their opinion about our teaching

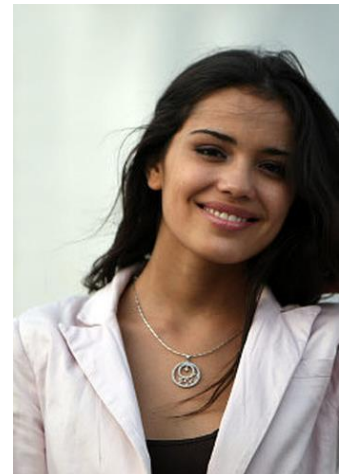
what we didn't realize we were doing things badly I think that's typically English. I think sometimes they need to say what they think, to be more direct.

Paula - I think English people are too polite that it makes us Latin people think that they're cold. I mean we're very noisy and extrovert and so when they're quiet and polite we think that they don't like us, that they're being unfriendly. So maybe

yes, they *can* be too polite. I think they need to relax more.



Melik - I think the English are very polite, but I don't think they are too polite - I mean I don't think it's a bad thing, I think it's a good thing. In my job, I have met a lot of English people and I think they're much more polite than we are, both in the way they talk and also in the way they respect other people's opinions. And their manners in general are much better.



OK, this isn't true about all English people. The football hooligans and some of the tourists that come here to Turkey and drink too much - they're not polite - but the majority is and I like it.



Renata - Well, I went to London a few years ago and one day, surprise-surprise, it was raining and I was walking along the street and everybody has an umbrella and every time someone went past me they hit me with their umbrella and then said, 'Oh sorry' or 'I'm awfully sorry' or 'I'm terribly sorry'. And after the tenth time this happened, I just said to the person who hit me: 'Please stop saying sorry and just be more careful!' So in answer to your question, I don't think English people are too polite. They say 'sorry' and 'thank you' a lot, but it doesn't really mean anything.

NOTES

Laszlo ['ləzləʊ]	Ласло
Hungary ['hʌŋgəri]	Венгрия
Paula ['pɔ:lə]	Пола
Latin ['lætɪn]	Латиноамериканцы
Melik [me'li:k]	Мелик
Turkey ['tɜ:kɪ]	Турция
Renata [rə'nɑ:tə]	Рената
typically ['tɪpɪk(ə)li]	типично
really ['riəli]	действительно
progress ['prəʊgrəs]	прогресс
extrovert ['ɛkstrəʊ,vɜ:t]	экстраверт
manner ['mænə]	манера
hooligan ['hu:lɪgən]	хулиган
tourist ['tʊərɪst]	турист

tutor ['tju:tə]	учитель, преподаватель
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II. VOCABULARY

<p>1. to be polite [pə'laɪt] English people can be so polite.</p>	<p>БЫТЬ ВЕЖЛИВЫМ Англичане могут быть очень вежливыми.</p>
<p>2. to do a training course ['treɪnɪŋ kɔ:s] I went to London to do a training course for teachers.</p>	<p>проходить курс обучения Я поехал в Лондон, чтобы пройти курс обучения для учителей.</p>
<p>3. to be surprised [sə'praɪzd] We were very surprised.</p>	<p>БЫТЬ УДИВЛЕННЫМ Мы были очень удивлены.</p>
<p>4. to do well We were all doing really well.</p>	<p>делать успехи Мы все делали большие успехи.</p>
<p>5. to fail a course [feɪl]</p>	<p>провалить (не справиться) курс</p>
<p>6. to give one's opinion [ə'pɪnjən] to respect other people's opinion [rɪs'pekt] They gave their opinion about our teaching.</p>	<p>высказывать мнение уважать мнение других людей Они высказали свое мнение по поводу нашей учебы.</p>
<p>7. to do well / to do badly ['bædli]</p>	<p>успевать (хорошо учиться) / не успевать (иметь проблемы с учебой)</p>
<p>8. to be direct [də'rekt] I wish sometimes they could be more direct.</p>	<p>БЫТЬ ПРАВДИВЫМ, ПРЯМЫМ Я хотел бы, чтоб они иногда были более прямыми.</p>

9. to be noisy ['nɔɪzi]	быть шумным
10. to be unfriendly [ʌn'frɛndli]	быть недружелюбным
11. to relax [rɪ'læks] I think they need to relax more.	расслабляться, отдыхать Считаю, что им нужно больше отдыхать.
12. in smb's job [dʒɒb] In my job, I have met a lot of English people.	по работе По работе я встречаюсь с англичанами.
13. in the way [weɪ] I think their politeness in the way they respect other people's opinions.	то, каким образом Считаю, что их вежливость выражается в том, каким образом они уважают мнение других людей.
14. in general [dʒɛnərəl]	в общем
15. surprise-surprise [sə'praɪz-sə'praɪz] I was in London and, surprise-surprise, it was raining!	какой сюрприз! Я была в Лондоне и, какой сюрприз, там шел дождь!
16. majority [mə'dʒɔrɪti]	большинство
17. to hit smb with an umbrella [ʌm'brɛlə]	ударить кого-л. зонтом
18. to go past [pɑ:st]	проходить мимо
19. awfully ['ɔ:fʊli] I'm awfully sorry.	Ужасно Мне ужасно жаль.
20. to walk along the street [ə'lɒŋ] I was walking along the street.	идти по улице Я шла по улице.
21. in answer to smb's question	ответить на чей-л. вопрос

III. READING COMPREHENSION

2. Answer the questions:

1. Where is Laszlo from?
2. Why did he go to London?
3. What did the tutors tell them about their studies?
4. What, to Paula's mind, do Latin people think about the English?
5. What does she think they need to do?
6. What does Melik think about English manners?
7. What was the weather like when Renata was visiting London?
8. What did she say to a stranger who hit her with an umbrella?

2. Read the statements and say whether they are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false ones:

1. Laszlo is a student from Poland.
2. He came to London to do a training course.
3. The tutors told them they were doing really well.
4. Laszlo successfully passed his exam.
5. He wishes English people were more direct.
6. Paula thinks English people are noisy and extrovert.
7. She says they need to relax more.
8. In his job, Melik has met few English people.
9. Renata has just returned from London.
10. The weather was fine during her stay in England.
11. People, who went past her in the street, greeted her with a smile.
12. She says that English people are very polite.

IV. ANALYZE

1. The four people use several expressions to talk about

English people. Find the following expressions:

1. An expression that means “to be open”
2. An expression that means “to say what one thinks”
3. An expression that means “to be shocked”
4. An expression that means “to succeed”
5. An expression that means “to knock smb. with”
6. An expression that means “not to pass an exam”
7. An expression that means “to go by”

2. Complete the sentences.

1. English people can be so **p**____**e** that you don't really understand them.
2. I went to London to do a **t**_____**g c**____**e** for teachers of English.
3. The English tutors **g**____**e** their **o**_____**n** about our teaching.
4. I think that's **t**_____**y** English.
5. I mean we're very **n**____**y** and **e**_____**t**.
6. They **r**_____**t** other people's **o**_____**s**.
7. The **f**_____**l h**_____**s** are not polite - but the **m**_____**y** is and I like it.
8. I was **w**_____**g a**_____**g** the street.
9. ‘Please stop saying sorry and just be more **c**_____**l**!’

3. Fill in the table.

Who ...?	Laszlo	Paula	Melik	Renata
is an English teacher				
comes from Turkey				
is noisy and extrovert				
disappointed with English politeness				
is from Hungary				
visited London in rainy weather				
failed the exam				
spoke about football hooligans				
thinks the English need to relax more				

4. Match the following English words with their definitions:

1. extrovert	a. having or showing behaviour that is respectful and considerate of other people
2. careful	b. extending or moving from one place to another without changing direction or stopping
3. direct	c. making or given to making a lot of noise
4. noisy	d. an outgoing, socially confident person
5. polite	e. done with or showing thought and attention
6. quiet	f. making little or no noise

5. Paraphrase the sentences, changing the words in italics.

1. We thought we were all *making progress* in the course.
2. Some of us *could not pass the examinations!*
3. I think sometimes they need to say what they think, to be more *frank*.
4. It makes us Latin people think that they're *reserved*.
5. I think they need to *rest* more.
6. They *are considerate about* other people's opinions.
7. But *most people are* polite and I like it.
8. When someone went past me he *touched* me with an umbrella.

6. Complete the sentences with suitable words or phrases from the box.

training course	awfully	respect
polite	relax	tutor
extrovert	noisy	

1. My neighbours' children are so sometimes that I cannot fall asleep because of them.
2. He wanted to become an accountant so he decided to
3. You look tired, you need to more.
4. She is confident, talented and kind that's why a lot of people admire and her.
5. I'm sorry I have broken your favourite cup.
6. It's very hard to get down to my studies, I guess I need to ask my for help.
7. A real gentleman must be reserved and
8. He is very energetic and talkative, he must be an

7. Make up sentences.

Example: a special course / foreign / it / for / teachers / was. – It was a special course for foreign teachers.

1. failed / some / the course / of us.

.....

2. that's / think / English / I / typically.

.....

3. to us / our progress / tutors / a lot / about / talked / the.

.....

4. they / to say / they / think / sometimes / need / what / to say.

.....

5. that / Latin / think / cold / people / they're.

.....

6. better / their / in general / are / manners / much.

.....

7. English / this / about / people / isn't true / all.

.....

8. mean / doesn't / anything / it / really.

.....

9. umbrella / they / me / with / hit / their.

.....

V. TRANSLATE

1. Вчера, когда я шел по улице, я встретил своего школьного друга Джона.
.....
2. В ответ на мой вопрос, он рассказал мне о себе.
.....
3. Компания, где работает Джон, отправила его на курсы обучения итальянскому языку, где он познакомился с семейной парой, живущей по соседству.....
.....
4. Марко и София оказались экстравертами и довольно откровенными людьми.....
.....
5. Джон настолько вежлив, что иногда не может отказать людям.....
6. Ему не хотелось быть недружелюбным, поэтому пришлось принять приглашение соседей на обед.....
.....
7. Когда он пришел, какой сюрприз, соседей не было дома!
.....
8. В своей работе, он иногда сталкивался с людьми, которые опаздывают, а иногда вообще не приходят на встречу.....
.....
9. Поэтому он считал новых друзей недостаточно вежливыми и собрался домой.....
.....
10. В этот момент он встретил своего преподавателя итальянского, проходившего мимо.....
.....
11. Преподаватель объяснил Джону, что итальянцы крайне непунктуальны
.....
12. Через некоторое время соседи пригласили Джона снова
.....

13. Они подружились и много говорили по-итальянски.....

14. К концу обучения Джон добился больших успехов!

VI. SPEAKING

1. Look at the five situations:

- Do people do these things in your country?
- Do you think it's good or bad manners to do these things, or it doesn't matter?
- Would you like people in your country to have such manners?

Greeting people

- Kiss people on both cheeks when you meet them for the first time
- Call older people by their first names
- Use more formal language when speaking to an older person



In a restaurant

- Let your children run around and be noisy
- Be very affectionate to your partner
- Talk on your mobile



Men and women – a man's role

- Pay for a woman on the first date
- Wait for a woman to go through the door first
- Make sure a woman gets home safely at night



Driving

- Always stop at pedestrian crossing

- Hoot at someone who's driving slowly
- Drive with the window down and your music playing



Visiting people

- Take a present if you're invited to dinner at someone's house
- Arrive more than 10 minutes late for a lunch or dinner
- Smoke in a house where the owners don't smoke



2. The British are famous for their politeness, what about people in your country? Do you think Russians are polite? How polite are people working in shopping centres, cafes and restaurants?

3. Speak about a situation in your life when you had positive / negative experiences dealing with people. Use the questions below.

- When and where did it happen?
- What was the matter of the conflict?
- Was it connected with you personally or with your family or friends?
- What did it take to settle the conflict down?
- Were you satisfied with the results?
- What emotions did you have during and after the situation?

4. The Russians are said to be very direct. For example, if they don't like the taste of some dish they say it frankly, no matter if it offends the hosts or not. Can you give an example when your honesty helped you and when it made you feel uncomfortable?

5. Single out three qualities of the Russians that you are proud of and three qualities that you really dislike.

HAVE FUN

How well do you know other countries? What country is described?

1. The country of films and cartoons, Cola and baseball. All of its people seem to have one and the same dream – to become rich. The country of dynamic people, businessmen, and advertisements.
2. The country of charming women, very busy men who are devoted to their work and the most obedient children. People of this country became proficient in making bouquets, cars, computers, TV-sets, etc. The country of the rising sun.
3. The country of beautiful women and swarthy (смуглый) men, guitars, serenades and inflammatory dances, wonderful wines and bullfighting.
4. The country of excellent perfumes. The mother of impressionism. The home of fashion trendsetters.
5. The country where only plump women are popular. The country where a lot of religions come from. At least half of its people speak English. Famous for its films.
6. The country where you can find everything you want, where the famous Games came from.
7. There used to be two countries, now they are united. The country of order and punctual people. Their language is a set of rules (but they are difficult to memorize). The country of beer and sausages.
8. The country the people of which are very close to us (literally). They are famous for their exotic food – they eat even unknown to modern science animals. They are very loving parents but because of the large population they cannot have more than one child.
9. The country of traditions, of ladies and gentlemen, international language, bacon and eggs.

Heaven is

Where the Police are British

The Chefs French

The Mechanics German

The Lovers Italian &

All is organized by the Swiss

Hell is

Where the Chefs are British

The Mechanics French

The Lovers Swiss

The Police German &

All is organized by the Italians