

Cultural Etiquette Quiz

Successfully managing or conducting business across cultures involves knowing what to say, when to arrive for meetings, what to wear, what gifts are acceptable, and what greeting to give, among many other things. It takes a continued effort to recognize and appreciate the other party's expectations and business practices. This quiz will give you an idea of how aware you are of the business cultures of other areas of the world. Answers are at the bottom of the quiz.*

1. Which culture often views professional titles as arrogant? Ireland
2. Where should you not use red ink on your business card because the color red has a negative connotation? Madagascar
3. In this culture, it may be considered an insult to leave immediately following a meeting, as this may suggest that you are not interested in getting to know the other party. Colombia
4. If you compliment someone in this country on one of his or her personal items, he or she may insist that you accept it as a gift. Bahrain
5. In this country, tapping your nose signals that something is to be kept secret or confidential. England
6. In this country, beckoning someone with your palm up while wagging one finger can be taken as an insult. India (and China)
7. In this country, people who have worked together for years still shake hands every morning as if they were meeting for the first time. Germany

8. In this country, negotiations usually take a long time and are chaotic, with numerous people often speaking simultaneously. Spain
9. The “thumbs up” gesture is offensive in this country. Saudi Arabia
10. Be sensitive to the volume of your voice in this country. Loud voices are known to be offensive in meetings as well as in restaurants and on the street. France
11. Negotiations and meetings with people from this country often involve flared tempers, and tantrums and walkouts often occur. Standing with your hands in your pockets is also considered rude in this culture. Russia
12. Because saving face is so important in this culture, you will often hear “It’s convenient” or “I’ll look into it” instead of being told “No.” China