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Student ID Number:

English Self-Directed Learning Activities

Language Learning Center 77-1005, Passport Rewards

Student Name:

SL 27C. Cultural Taboos

SL27C. Culture – Cultural Taboos

Instructor:	Level:	Date:		
For media links in this activity, visit the your SDLA number to s	e LLC ESL Tutoring website f		SDLAs. Find	_
Sect	ion 1: Introduction			
Every culture has their own set of social rules th	nat tells others what is accep	table to do and	not to do. So	ometimes
these rules are about how to eat; some are about	how to talk to people; and s	some are about	how to main	ntain you
home. Look at the list below of rules related to	different cultures. Check wh	ether you think	they are tru	e or
false.				
1. In Thailand, don't touch the head of someone don't touch the head at all.	, , , ,	•	True	□ False
2. Always eat while sitting down when in Indon	esia.		True	☐ False
3. In Japan, don't point with your chopsticks.			True	☐ False
4. Don't give an even number of roses as a gift t	for a romantic occasion in R	ussia.	True	\square False
5. In India and many other countries, don't eat f	ood with your left hand.		True	☐ False
6. Don't cut your grass on Sunday in Switzerlan	d.		True	□ False

Actually, all of the above statements are true. These are called cultural **taboos**, rules against doing or saying something in a particular culture. One important thing to know is that these rules are not written down anywhere. Most cultural taboos are learned through experience or being told by others. For example, in some countries, including the United States, Indonesia, and Sierra Leone, asking adults about their age is generally considered taboo, but people only know this because others have told them it is taboo, or they've learned through experience, receiving the "evil eye" when they asked this unacceptable question.

Adapted from: 20 Cultural Taboos. https://www.ufic.ufl.edu/Documents/20%20Cultural%20Taboos.pdf

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Section 2: Using Should or Shouldn't

When you want to talk about cultural taboos, one way to talk about them is by using the modal should. Should is always followed by the base form of a verb, and it can be used to express advice. When used in the present, should + base form of verb means that it is an appropriate thing to do or say. On the other hand, should not (shouldn't) + base form of verb means that it is a cultural taboo and not an appropriate thing to do or say.

For example:

- In Indonesia, you **should always** eat while sitting down.
- In Thailand, you **shouldn't touch** the head of someone older than you, or, in general, you **shouldn't touch** the head at all.

What are some things that you **should** and **shouldn't** do in <u>your culture</u>? Complete the chart below with your answers. You will discuss the reasons why with a tutor in Section 5.

Taboo Topics	Your Cultural Taboos Should	Shouldn't
Eating habits		
Talking to people		
Maintaining your home		
Asking people questions		
Giving and receiving gifts		

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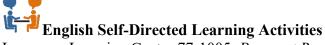
Section 3: Taboos in Other Cultures

Find three other people who are from a different culture than you. Ask them the following questions about cultural taboos. Make sure you also ask them why it is a cultural taboo. Write their responses in the chart.

*Note: You may politely ask to record their responses using your cell phone. If they allow you to record their response, a tutor can help you with any unknown vocabulary words or pronunciation.

Cultural Taboos Interviews

Name and Culture	What is something you shouldn't do when eating? Why?	What is something you shouldn't do when talking to people? Why?	What is something you should never give as a gift? Why?



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Section 4: Student Self-Assessment

Complete this table BEFORE meeting with a tutor.

Communication Skill	I can't do this YET.	I can do this WITH help.	I can do this WITHOUT help.	I can TEACH this to a classmate.
I can describe what cultural taboos are.				
I can use should or shouldn't to talk about cultural taboos.				
I can talk to people from different cultures about their cultural taboos.				

Here are some words/phrases I need to practice.				

Good job!

Now go to the <u>LLC Tutoring Website</u> and make an appointment with a tutor. Visit the <u>Virtual LLC</u> at the time of your appointment.

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Section 5: Practice with a Tutor!

Meet with a tutor, and share this activity with the tutor. You will review this SDLA with the tutor and have a conversation about cultural taboos. You may also ask the tutor any questions that you might have.

Grading Rubric

(0-1 Point) ough information ed in responses and does not use correct ulary. than 6 mistakes words; needs ng more than 3 times.	(2-3 Points) Provides most important information in responses and some of the time uses correct vocabulary. Not more than 5 mistakes saying words; needs	(4-5 Points) Provides all necessary information in responses and most of the time uses correct vocabulary. Not more than 2 mistakes saying words; needs no
ough information ed in responses and loes not use correct ulary. han 6 mistakes words; needs	Provides most important information in responses and some of the time uses correct vocabulary. Not more than 5 mistakes	Provides all necessary information in responses and most of the time uses correct vocabulary. Not more than 2 mistakes
ed in responses and does not use correct plary. Than 6 mistakes words; needs	information in responses and some of the time uses correct vocabulary. Not more than 5 mistakes	information in responses and most of the time uses correct vocabulary. Not more than 2 mistakes
words; needs		
ig more than 5 times.	guessing on 1-2 words or sentences.	guess about meaning.
mostly in phrases, ual words; many	Sometimes speaks in complete sentences; several pauses.	Speaks in complete sentences; a couple pauses okay.
least 10 points to mo	ve on	Possible Points:/ 1
	least 10 points to mo	least 10 points to move on

Congratulations! Keep going.	Work on this more.
You have successfully completed this SDLA and are ready to continue to the next.	You have not yet mastered this SDLA. It is recommended that you complete it again.
Tutor Signature:	Date: