Cultural stereotypes

Pre-task:

Fill out the following form. Discuss the stereotypes people have of your own country and the country of your language partner. Are they (partly) true? Are they true for you?

	Example: USA	Your own country	Partner country
Eats/drinks	Burgers, pizza, fast food; soda		
Likes/dislikes	Like fried food; dislike learning languages		
Plays	Football; baseball; basketball		
Behavior	Loud; very friendly; open; confident; positive		

Task 1:

Do you know the joke? Complete the second half of this joke together:

"Heaven is where the police are British, the cooks are French, the mechanics are German, the lovers are Italian and it is all organized by the Swiss.

Hell is where the police are …….., the cooks are ……., the mechanics are ……., the lovers are ………, and it is all organized by the ……….."

Task 2:

American tourists have a reputation of standing out when they visit Europe.

- Do you think that tourists from different countries have different habits and ways of traveling? Discuss examples.
- Are they dressed differently?

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Follow-up activity:

Watch the following short video:

Introduction:

A business meeting is about to start. The man is in need of a translator. The woman offers to translate from English into seven different languages.

Transcript:

Woman: "Are you alright?"

Man: "No, I am having a bit of a nightmare, actually."

Woman: "What's the matter?"

Man: "Well, I've got all the international CEO's from around the world in this room. In ten minutes the annual summit is supposed to take place. They've come thousands of miles to get here and my translator hasn't turned up. I need to find someone who can translate into seven different languages."

Woman: "Well, I can do that...Yeah, I did a TEFL in my gap year."

Man: "Welcome back to London, ladies and gentlemen. This is Helen Marsh, who will be our interpreter today. So, without further ado, let's address section 1.1 Multinational profiteering, for the financial year 2005 to 2006

Woman: "translates" into seven languages

- What do you think?
- How would you imitate your own language and the language of your language partner? Which sounds stand out?

Sources

Video 1   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XY66ZJ0TFUI

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