

# Customs and traditions

## Pre-task:

How do you greet someone in your country?

- Do you shake hands? Do you give him or her a kiss on the cheek? (How many?) Which cheek do you start with? Or do you give a hug? Do you greet friends and colleagues differently?
- What are typical expressions to say “hello?”
- How do you address someone you don’t know well (Mr., Mrs., first name...)?

## Task 1:

Fill out the form together. What are some of the dos and don’ts of polite behavior in your country?

	Your own country	Partner country
Acceptable small talk topics/topics to avoid		
Visiting people at home (Do you bring gifts? Do you take off your shoes? Do you arrive on time?)		
Standing in line (Do people queue? Is it ok to jump the line?)		
Meetings/being on time (Are you expected to be on time? Or are people usually late? How late is ok?)		
Personal space/touch		

## Task 2:

- What are the most important holidays and celebrations in your country?
- Are there any national holidays or traditional celebrations in your country that are not celebrated elsewhere? (Halloween, Sankt Martin, July 14th, Queen's birthday, May 1st, Ferragosto, Sant Jordi etc.). Describe what you would usually do on that day.
- What kind of food would you expect on the most important holidays?

## Follow-up activity:

- HSBC has created a series of commercials on cultural differences and proper etiquette. Watch the following two short commercials:
- "[Smashed car](#)" (video 1)
- "[Eels add](#)" (video 2)
- Explain the cultural misunderstanding.
- What would be considered polite in your country in these situations?

## Sources

Video 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1vvLQd53Ps&list=PL27E01FF1BD50D762>

Video 2 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6\\_WAmt3cMdk&list=PL92C8DD689D6BEDC1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_WAmt3cMdk&list=PL92C8DD689D6BEDC1)