

Global Politeness

Directions: Read the passage below about manners in different cultures. Then answer the short-answer and reflection questions.



Manners can look very different around the world, but they all serve the same purpose: showing respect and kindness to others. In Japan, people greet each other by bowing instead of shaking hands. The depth of the bow can show the level of respect or formality. In the United States, greetings usually involve a handshake, wave, or friendly "hello," and eye contact is seen as a sign of confidence and respect.

In many Middle Eastern countries, it is polite to use the right hand for eating or giving items, as the left hand is considered impolite for these actions. Meanwhile, in some parts of Europe, people may greet friends or family with a light kiss on the cheek, which would feel unusual in other places. Even though these traditions are different, the goal is the same: to make others feel valued and respected through thoughtful behavior.

Comprehension Questions:

1. How do people in Japan usually greet each other?
2. What does eye contact represent in the United States?
3. Why do people in many Middle Eastern countries use only their right hand when greeting or eating?
4. What is one example of how Europeans might greet friends or family?
5. What do all these cultural manners have in common?

Reflection Questions:

1. Which greeting style do you think shows the most respect, and why?
2. How can learning about other cultures' manners help you in real life?
3. Think of one polite habit from your culture. How does it show respect?