

CULTURAL MISUNDERSTANDING

An exchange student has just arrived and is spending the first week in a new country. They are curious and open-minded, and they are genuinely interested in understanding how people live there. One afternoon, the host student invites them to meet a group of friends at the park. In the student's culture, being on time is very important, and arriving exactly at the agreed hour shows respect.

They agree to meet at 5:00. The exchange student arrives at 4:55 and waits, expecting the others to arrive soon. However, time passes, 5:10, then 5:20, and no one is there. The student starts to feel confused and slightly disrespected, wondering if something went wrong or if people are not taking the meeting seriously.

Finally, around 5:25, the host student and the others arrive, relaxed and smiling. The exchange student asks, "I was worried, why is everyone late?" The question is asked sincerely, without any bad intention.

However, the group is a bit surprised. In their culture, for informal meetings, it is normal to arrive later than the exact time, and being a bit late is not considered rude. They didn't realize the student would take the time so strictly.

A slightly awkward moment follows. The exchange student doesn't fully understand why no one sees a problem, while the others don't understand why the student is so concerned. The host student then tries to explain that this is simply a cultural difference in how people see time and punctuality.



Start with a simple everyday conversation, like asking about the day or school, then move to making plans. Include the moment of misunderstanding and both reactions. At the end, the host student can explain the situation and help the exchange student understand the cultural difference.



1. Who do you think was in a more difficult situation? Why?

2. How did these people react and what could have they done better?

3. What could they do to resolve this situation?

CULTURAL MISUNDERSTANDING

An exchange student has just arrived and is spending the first week with a host family in another country. They are curious and open-minded, and they are genuinely interested in learning about everyday life there.

One evening, they are having dinner together. The atmosphere is warm and polite, and the family is trying to make the student feel comfortable. They start talking about school, daily routines, and future plans. The conversation naturally shifts toward jobs and the future. The student wants to understand how life works in this country compared to their own. For them, talking about work and money is normal and part of understanding opportunities.

Student: "And how much can you usually earn here? Like, what's the average salary? I'm just trying to compare it to my country." The question is asked with genuine curiosity, without any bad intention. However, the host family immediately feels uncomfortable. In their culture, talking about money, especially at the dinner table, is considered too direct-and impolite.

An awkward silence follows. The host family doesn't want to offend the student, but they still feel uncomfortable. The student, doesn't fully understand why the question caused tension, since their intention was only to learn and compare cultures.



You can start with an every day conversation ex. and how was your day? And what do you want to be in the future? The host student can help out the exchange student with understanding the situation



1. Who do you think was in a more difficult situation? Why?

2. How did these people react and what could have they done better?

3. What could they do to resolve this situation?