

Culture Corner 8

Getting to the USA





Going to the USA? Remember...

Read the parts highlighted in bold

- ★ **Make space!** Always maintain enough distance between you and someone you're talking to, even a friend! Personal body space is very important to Americans!
- ★ It is **NOT** usually acceptable to call someone before 9am or after 10pm.
- ★ Never ask for someone's **personal information**, such as age or salary details. It is considered very rude!
- ★ **Don't cut ahead** in a line. 'Cutters' are not tolerated!
- ★ Yawning or sneezing without covering your mouth or **burping** are considered very gross! Americans have very high hygiene standards.
- ★ **Opinions:** it's OK to have them! This manner of direct speaking is often interpreted by foreigners as rude, but it isn't!
- ★ **Unexpected visits** aren't really 'the done thing' in America! Telephone beforehand.
- ★ Remember to knock before entering a room.
- ★ **Maintain eye contact** when speaking to someone. Not looking someone in the eye can be taken as a sign of dishonesty.
- ★ **Always try to be on time.** Punctuality is extremely important for Americans.
- ★ **Never forget to say 'please' and 'thank you'.** Not doing so means that you have bad manners!
- ★ **Names:** it's often OK for young people to call adults by their first names. It is not considered impolite or disrespectful. Rather, it is taken as a sign of equality, a highly valued American ideal!
- ★ **Eating before others** are ready to begin is considered very impolite.
- ★ **Remember to always tip** waiters, doormen, taxi drivers, hairdressers. It's a highly important social convention in the USA!

2 Read the pairs of words below and choose which word is used in American English and which in British English. Check in a dictionary.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1 gas/petrol | 8 chips/fries |
| 2 pavement/sidewalk | 9 lawyer/attorney |
| 3 trainers/sneakers | 10 fall/autumn |
| 4 freeway/motorway | 11 shop assistant/sales clerk |
| 5 drugstore/chemist's | 12 zip code/postcode |
| 6 counter-clockwise/
anti-clockwise | 13 bill/note (money) |
| 7 chips/crisps | 14 rubber/eraser |

4 Look at the leaflet again. Which pieces of advice would you also give to foreigners visiting your country? What other advice would you give? Make a list, then compare it with your partner's.

▀ Your homework:

Create a leaflet about the rules of behavior in our country on the example of the studied material.