

Unit	X	Special Culture Lesson			
Week	15	Lesson	3	Date	16 th June 2008
Coursebook	New Interchange				
Materials needed	Laptop, game, projector, various sheets, board game				
Aims					

Stage	Notes
Introduction	Comment on my parent's journey from China to UK to China (through me)
Opening Question	<p><u>What are your beliefs about culture?</u></p> <p>Ask students to stand up. They will be asked questions about their beliefs on the following statements. If they agree, they go to one side of the room. If they disagree, they go to the other side. If they are neutral, they stay in the middle.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Culture is an important part of who your identity (who you are). Learning culture is important in learning another language.
Brainstorm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> What is culture? What are the differences between Chinese and Western Culture?
Culture slideshow	<p>Play slideshow http://jclam.spaces.live.com/blog/cns!EC6CA4FED62243E5!4672.entry</p> <p>Stop at every slide and ask students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speculate on the meaning Say if it is true today or not
Discussion	<p>Culture is hard to define. First, let's look at the different aspects of Chinese culture.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> What are the ways that Chinese people differ from Westerners? Is there a "right" way or a "wrong" way? Is the individual more important or the group? Which is more important when working: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Completing the task? Keeping good relationships? What are some things that you all believe in? How do you share culture? How do you pass on culture to the next generation? Is the Chinese culture weak or strong?
Definition of culture	<p>Culture: is a shared, learned, symbolic system of values, beliefs and attitudes that shapes and influences perception and behavior -- an abstract "mental blueprint" or "mental code."</p> <p>Must be studied "indirectly" by studying behavior, customs, material culture (artifacts, tools and technology), language, etc.</p>

	<p>1) Learned Process of learning one's culture is called enculturation. 2) Shared by the members of a society. No "culture of one." 3) Patterned People in a society live and think in ways that form definite patterns. 4) Mutually constructed through a constant process of social interaction. 5) Symbolic. Culture, language and thought are based on symbols and symbolic meanings. 6) Arbitrary. Not based on "natural laws" external to humans, but created by humans according to the "whims" of the society. Example: standards of beauty. 7) Internalized. Habitual. Taken-for-granted. Perceived as "natural."</p>
British does and don'ts	<i>See British does and don'ts sheet</i>
Video	<p><u>Being British Born Chinese</u></p> <p><u>Opening questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does "British born Chinese" mean? 2. What are some problems do you think that a BBC faces? <p><u>Video questions</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Where do most BBC families work? 2. Do BBC students work hard? 3. Do Susan's parents speak English? 4. What is the Sunday tradition? 5. Is Susan comfortable at school? 6. What is Susan's biggest problem? <p><u>Post-video discussion</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is her life fair? 2. Do you think she is British or Chinese?
Game	<u>Values board game</u>
Grammar sheet	

British Do's and Don'ts

Do's

- Do stand in line:

In Britain we like to form orderly queues and wait patiently for our turn, for example, when boarding a bus. It is usual to queue when required, and expected that you will take your correct turn and not push in front. 'Queue jumping' is frowned upon.

- Do take your hat off when you go indoors (men only)

- Do say "excuse me"

If someone is in your way then you must say "excuse me". That person will then apologise and get out of your way.

- Do pay as you go

Pay for drinks as you order them in pubs and other types of bars.

- Do say "please" and "thank you":

It is very good manners to say "please" and "thank-you". It is considered rude if you don't. Britons say 'thank you' a lot.

- Do cover your mouth:

When yawning or coughing always cover your mouth with your hand.

- Do shake hands:

When you are first introduced to someone, shake their right hand with your own right hand.

- Do say sorry:

If you accidentally bump into someone, say 'sorry'. They probably will too, even if it was your fault! This is a habit and can be seen as very amusing by an 'outsider'.

- Do smile

- Do respect people's privacy.

- Do drive on the left side of the road

Don'ts

- Do not greet people with a kiss:

We only kiss people who are close friends and relatives.

- Don't talk loudly in public
- Don't stare at anyone in public.
- Don't pick your nose in public.
- Don't use gestures such as backslapping and hugging. This is only done among close friends.
- Don't spit.

Spitting in the street is considered to be very bad mannered.

- Do not burp in public

You may feel better by burping loudly after eating or drinking, but other people will not! If you can not stop a burp from bursting out, then cover your mouth with your hand and say 'excuse me' afterwards.

- Don't speak with your mouth full of food
- Don't ask personal or intimate questions

Britons like privacy. Please do not ask questions such as "How much money do you earn?" "How much do you weigh?" or "Why aren't you married?"

- Don't eat off a knife when having a meal.
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Question

Think about the differences between the UK and China. Make your own "do's and don'ts list".