



Dos and don'ts: Did you know?

You never want to seem rude when you visit another country, so it's a good idea to find out about the local customs first. On these pages, you can learn about some interesting customs from around the world.

Things to know before you go

Thailand

You should never touch another person's head unless you are a close friend, a relative or a doctor.

Spain

Don't call or make a surprise visit to a home between around 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. This is siesta time, so everybody may be asleep!

Brazil

If you're invited to somebody's home, you should arrive at least 30 minutes late.

France

If you give flowers, it should be an odd number – but not 13! That's an unlucky number.

Korea

Here, four is an unlucky number. If you give a gift, it should not be in four parts (e.g. four packets of chocolate).

Japan

Making loud slurping noises when you eat is OK. In fact, it can be polite. It shows you're enjoying the food.

Egypt

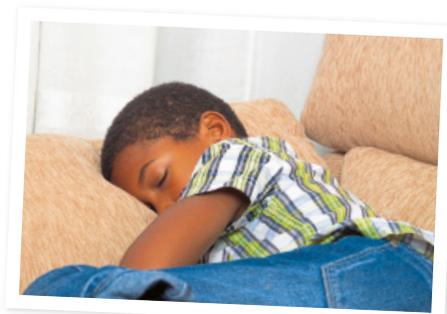
It's impolite to your host to put salt on your food – even if there's salt on the table.

Russia

You should leave a small amount of food on your plate to show that your host has given you enough. If you don't, your host will give you more, and more, and more!

India

If you leave a group of people, you should say goodbye to each person individually. If you just say goodbye to the whole group together, this could seem rude.



How are the customs different to the German ones?

to touch [tʌtʃ] **berühren** ○ relative [ˈrelatɪv] **Verwandte/-r** ○ odd number [ˈɒd ˌnʌmbə] **ungerade Zahl** ○ gift [ɡɪft] **Geschenk** ○ slurping [ˈslɜːpɪŋ] **schlürpfend** ○ salt [sɔːlt] **Salz** ○ amount [əˈmaʊnt] **Menge**



Rude or OK?

Do you think these things are rude or OK?
Give each one a number from 1 (perfectly fine)
to 5 (very rude).



A friend comes to stay in your house for three days. He / She doesn't do anything to help in the house, and doesn't buy you any gifts.	① ② ③ ④ ⑤
You go out for a pizza with a friend. At the end of the meal, your friend says he / she has forgotten to bring money, so you have to pay the whole bill. The friend says he / she will pay next time you go out together.	① ② ③ ④ ⑤
You're at the front of the queue at a railway station ticket office. Somebody pushes in front of you and says, "Sorry, I need my ticket now or I'll miss my train!"	① ② ③ ④ ⑤
You're reading a magazine on a bus. You notice that the person next to you is looking at your magazine and reading it too.	① ② ③ ④ ⑤
You're with your friends at a café. You get up to talk to somebody you know, and when you come back one of your friends is using your phone. After the call, he / she says, "It was only a very quick call. I didn't think you'd mind."	① ② ③ ④ ⑤
You go into a café with a friend. There is one free table. Another person is also walking towards that table. He / She sees you, so he / she walks faster to get to the table before you can.	① ② ③ ④ ⑤
You are travelling on a train. The person in the seat next to you has a long, loud conversation on his / her phone.	① ② ③ ④ ⑤



Can you remember a situation in which someone did something which you thought was rude? What happened? Why did you feel it was rude?

bill [bɪl] Rechnung ○ free [fri:] frei ○ seat [si:t] (Sitz)Platz