

Lesson 08: Cross-cultural Business Etiquette

Warm-up Questions:

How can not understanding other culture ruin business relationships? How would you describe your business culture? What do you think is the most important etiquette in your business culture? How would you feel if foreign business associate broke some cultural etiquette rules?

Vocabulary/Expressions:

Cut to the chaseStay on your toesDouble standardsFrowned upon

Protocol Limp noodle

Practice:

Can you think of any double standards in your country? How do you feel about it? What are some behaviors that are frowned upon in your office/country? Do you have to follow protocols at work? How strictly are they enforced? Limp noodle handshake is considered a bad handshake in the west. What's your opinion?

Discussion:

Do you know other business cultural etiquettes around the world?

Would you ever reject a business deal with a foreigner just because he or she violated your country's etiquette?

What can we do to prevent making cultural mistakes in other countries?

Office Culture 101: Create a list of do's and don'ts of your country's office culture

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