

Understanding Cultural Norms to Avoid Social Mistakes in the U.S.

For each statement below check “Yes” if it is true or appropriate in your culture and check “No” if the statement is not true or not appropriate in your culture. Do not think as culture in terms of where you are physically located but focus on whether that statement or behavior is appropriate or not appropriate in the culture that you are most familiar with or in the country where you lived the longest time of your life so far.

Statement	Yes ✓	No x
1. Tipping is common in my culture.		
2. I feel comfortable asking someone about his/her salary or political or religious views.		
3. When introducing myself to people, I tell people my name, age, whether I am single/married, and have children or not.		
4. It is okay for me to ask someone I just met in person to be my Facebook/LinkedIn friend or give out (or ask for) personal contact information (e.g. phone number) to a person you just met.		
5. Hugging and/or kissing on the cheek is an acceptable way to greet someone I just met. Kissing in public is normal in my culture.		
6. If I am in a public space (bus, theater, elevator), I always leave as much room between me and the other person as possible. I do not sit immediately next to the person if I can help it.		
7. It is okay for me to use things that belong to my colleague/classmate/roommate without asking his/her permission.		
8. I address the professor/teacher by his/her family name (e.g. Professor Lee).		
9. Arriving later than the scheduled meeting time with no explanation is not a big deal.		
10. When someone asks me, “How are you?” I give a detailed response.		