

A Tutor's Guide

Teaching English to Families and Children

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Congratulations!

You have joined the Cultural Exchange Project and are about to enter an exciting new phase of your life – and the lives of others. You are entering the Global Classroom, learning and teaching in one motion. On your part, there is certainly a great amount of anxiety, much anticipation, and high expectations as to the coming adventures. This is the same on the part of the family as they prepare to welcome you into their home and wonder what the future will bring. Who are you? What will you enjoy? How can they make you comfortable? What will you bring to the family and its members?

Life flows and we seldom remark on the little things surrounding us and daily life. These are natural actions in our lives. However, entering another culture accentuates all and you are about to enter that realm.

Relax! Be yourself! Let the adventures happen as they should. Don't worry that things might not be as you wish or think they should be. Work with what you find. Remember that you are in another culture and this will dictate direction and decisions. It will also become one of the more exciting adventures of your life; one to be cherished and to be incorporated into your future.

Although you enter into a family's life as a guest with a purpose of helping, you will be learning, as well. This interaction will be exciting for both you and the family members and will lead you all to many questions and observations. You need to remember that you are an ambassador for your nation and culture. This is a large responsibility, especially in this day of instant news and Internet access. These can be used to your own advantage as you explain what is happening from your own viewpoint. Depending on age of children in the family, you can use the Internet to your own advantage in teaching and learning.

We hope that this booklet will help you in your adventures. There are several sections that may aid in working with a variety of age levels. Families will wish you to help their children in studies and in just getting ahead a bit in their own academic career. This can range from a child in kindergarten to a child hoping to get a high score in a major exam. In most cases, it will be the hope that interaction with you will allow a better understanding of both language and culture. This is what it is all about.

We offer the suggestions in this booklet as a guide, and we welcome any comments you have concerning your own experiences as a guide to us. Also included in the booklet are ways to find useful information and a glimpse of what you might personally experience entering a new culture

Expectations

When thinking of other cultures, everyone has pre-conceived ideas based on prior knowledge. We often base our expectations of how we might react or live within another culture on those ideas. We tend to 'leap ahead' in visualizing what will happen and how we will react. If we are too rigid in our expectations, we can have negative experiences that don't fit our idea of how the experience should be realized.

A sense of humor and flexibility are extremely important when living and working in a different culture. Try to leave preconceived ideas at home and enter the culture with an open mind. This is a true learning opportunity for you and the family; one not to be missed.

In fulfilling your part of the experience – the teaching – try to be realistic about what you can and cannot do in the amount of time available, both daily and within the entire experience. Step into the shoes of the child and the family to look at yourself and how you might react in any given situation.

The host family will also have expectations, including those of your culture, how people behave, and what they wish to receive from the experience of hosting. They, too, are embarking on the unknown and are probably as nervous as you about what can happen. They expect good things for their child and a level of learning, which might or might not be within realistic goals depending on the child's age. Ongoing discussion with the family can keep the goals realistic as regards the child and expectations.

Keep an open mind and involve yourself as much as possible in the host culture and in the life of the family. You are embarking on a wonderful cultural voyage.

Enjoy your adventure!

Nuts & Bolts



This section includes good ideas to consider that will make your stay abroad more comfortable.

Embassies: Americans traveling abroad should register their presence with their Embassy. This is important in case of emergency, if bulletins need to be sent to American citizens in the country, or if you have difficulties and need consular aid. You can normally register online, and it is important that your information include the day of arrival and your proposed departure date. You can find the address and contact information on Google by typing in: "American Embassy – (name of your host country)."

It is extremely important that you carry **personal emergency information** in your wallet, including who to contact in case of emergency, the name, phone number(s) and address of your homestay family, and the contact information for your Embassy.

Your Family: They will all be excited to welcome you into their home and to share their hospitality and culture. You all will have much to learn beyond language and the family will want to know about you, what you like, what you enjoy and about North America. Depending on language facility, you will be able to share and learn. There are some things you may wish to avoid in conversation. These can include politics, religion, and trying to "sell" your culture. If questions are asked in these areas, you can share your personal opinions and beliefs diplomatically while asking the family like questions.

Avoid driving or operating motor vehicles. Being unfamiliar with the host culture driving habits puts you at a disadvantage. It is good to learn the public transportation system. Arm yourself with a good city map indicating bus routes. If you get lost, ask questions.

It is always good to have a small **bilingual dictionary and/or phrase book**. This is a great opportunity to enter into another language, as language quite often defines a culture. You will be working with the English language in the family, and this will define your culture.

A good way to work with a family and new friends is to have some **recipes that are typical of your home region**. In this day of mixed cultures and globalization, fast food restaurants flourish worldwide. Each of us, however, has a “taste” of our culture that can be shared. This is a fun way to introduce yourself and a good way to involve family members.

If you have a **musical instrument and a songbook**, you will become a hit.

Keep a **daily diary**, realizing that you are in the midst of new adventures and memory may fail at times as new experiences occur. Small details escape us from day to day and this is a fine way of remembering your feelings, what you have seen, and who you have met.

Things to Watch: The community, the family interactions, noted cultural differences, the small daily surprises.

Introduction

Things to Consider

Packing Your Suitcase

What to pack in the suitcase (Beyond the personal items)



In most cases, you will know the destination and family circumstances, including child ages. However, you may not know availability of teaching aids, right down to the glue sticks.

It is a good idea to pack in useful items that can be used at a variety of ages. Anything unused can be left behind and the space in the suitcase can be used for gifts and item for home. Although we can assume you will be working with younger children, there is the possibility that you will be a helpmate to older children as they wrestle with their studies. Here we go with a partial list of possible items to take. Use your imagination as we go along.

More Things To Consider When Packing – Your Suitcase

It is always difficult to decide on what from the closet to put into the suitcase, especially in these days of one only suitcase – plus a carryon backpack. Depending on your length of stay, simple is the best way to pack. One good-looking outfit for special occasions is always a good idea. Not a tuxedo, but something that says “dress up from the ‘norm’”. Other clothing can be somewhat casual. Remember that other cultures may not be as forgiving as our own regarding dress. Short shorts and tight-fitting tops with midriff exposure might not be acceptable. Likewise, only wearing flip flops might not be a good idea. Think carefully about how others are seeing you. Mix and match outfits that can be wash and wear are always good. Comfortable shoes for walking are a must.

You can often get more room in your suitcase if you roll your clothing. This leads to fewer wrinkles and lets you stack clothing like logs. Another plus is to put things in plastic baggies. These can be used later for many inventive things, as you will find.

The suitcase should have wheels and a pull handle. The four-wheeled swivel suitcases are especially nice. Outside zipper pockets are a plus and soft sides are lighter weight. Remember that weight allowances vary domestically and internationally and from country to country. Best to check wherever possible.

Packing Checklist – Important Items

Passport/photocopies – Can carry in a pouch around your neck or in a purse that is slung across your chest and over one shoulder. Remember to keep a copy in another location and one at home or with a friend. Don't carry valuables in trouser or shirt pocket.

- Extra Passport photos
- Travelers Cheques and/or cash
- One credit card good for international expenses
- Record of vaccinations
- Insurance Coverage for international travel
- Pocket Dictionary for country of destination
- Band Aids
- Small Address Book
- Camera
- Diary
- Small Flashlight
- Travel Alarm Clock
- Small sewing kit – similar to hotel kits
- Seasonal materials – If you know you will be abroad during a typical North American holiday.



Things to Consider

More Things to Consider When Packing Your Suitcase

- A durable backpack that can double as a day pack is a fine second piece of luggage and as your carry-on. If you are taking a laptop computer, you should carry it with you. Check with the airline (online) about what is acceptable to carry on. If there is a question, pack the items in your check-in luggage.
- A diary.



Things to Consider

NEVER pack your passport or any other documents needed for exit or entry in your check-in luggage. ALWAYS carry them on your person, along with your money and wallet when traveling. Once in your home, not necessary to carry with you daily. DO have two photocopies of your passport face page; one in your suitcase and one left at home – just in case something happens. A good idea is to have a card in your wallet and one in your suitcase with next of kin information and who to contact in case of emergency. If you are on medications, it is also good to have that information (name and dose) available. If you wear contact lenses, it is always good to have a backup pair or a pair of glasses; just in case something happens. Prescription information is good to add to your personal information.

Alcohol, Drugs and Sex

Alcohol

It is culturally acceptable in most nations to drink alcohol. In many nations there is no age restriction for drinking alcohol. Tasty wines and beers are often served at meals and provide a good complement to the national cuisine. Many wines and beers have a higher alcohol content than might be found in North America. It is important to be aware of your own limits with alcohol.

Drugs

It is against the laws of almost all nations to traffic in, consume, or possess any drug considered illegal. Anyone caught with illegal drugs will be jailed, heavily fined, and face deportation or a long jail sentence. In many major cities, there is a “drug culture.” These areas are normally closely monitored. If arrested on drug charges, the person is subject to the laws and punishments of the host country. Embassy personnel seldom have a say in these situations.

If you bring prescription drugs, make certain you have accompanying printed information about the drug, prescriptions, and the reason they are taken.

Sex

During your adventure, you will meet many people and become close friends with some. When away from your own culture you will notice different social attitudes. Sometimes there is a desire to experience those differences. Be aware that you may not recognize the different cultural signals, body language interpretations, or pitfalls possible in very close relationships.

Culture Shock

Culture shock is the deep reaction to the psychological disorientation that people feel when taken from their own culture into a new culture for an extended period. Culture shock can cause intense discomfort. Some manifestations include irritability, bitterness, homesickness, depression, resentment, confusion, and perhaps psychosomatic illnesses (rashes, headaches, intestinal upset). Sometimes culture shock is short, and at other times it is a prolonged state.

Although frustration can be a part of culture shock, it is not the same as culture shock because frustration is normally caused by a specific action or situation that can be remedied and altered. Ambiguity, a situation not matching preconceived expectations, not being able to see results, using methods to solve a situation that do not fit the problem; these are causes of frustration.

Things to Consider

Things to Consider

Culture shock, however, is encountering differences in the ways of doing things, organizing, perceiving, or valuing things different from your own that might threaten your unconscious beliefs, customs, assumptions, values, and behaviors. They challenge your way of believing that certain things should be “right” and others “wrong.”

Culture shock does not suddenly hit you over the head. Instead, it sneaks up gradually, builds up slowly, is an accumulation of things or a series of small events that are difficult to identify. There is no one thing that points to you undergoing culture shock.

Each of us has what is known as “cultural baggage” that we carry with us wherever we go. We have known ways of acting, cues that we unconsciously follow, cultural body language, subtle ways of expressing ourselves and our feelings, and cultural meanings that are understood instinctively. This “cultural baggage,” or our personal cultural bubble, is how we all tend to look at the world and assume Life will work for us. What happens when that support system suddenly disappears in the midst of another culture? The way we behave and what we assume are no longer totally acceptable in daily life. What happens to your own thinking when all around you is ambiguity; nothing follows the seeming rules; when your own values are brought into question. What happens when you are put into the situation where the expectations are that you will function with maximum speed and skills, but where the rules have not been clearly explained? Will you be disoriented? How will you react? Actually, these situations can include everything from what to say to people when first meeting them, to shaking hands and with whom when, to making purchases, when to refuse or accept an invitation and wondering why it is being offered, to when to take a statement seriously or when not to. How do you interpret meaning, not to mention language cues, in everyday life? What is the significance of a nod, a handshake, averted eyes, a long response with no real answer to the question? Will these everyday cultural differences finally “get under your skin?”

Because you are coming into your new culture for a relatively short period of time, your encounter with the culture, although brief, will be intense. This is human nature as we gauge our “distance” and fit ourselves psychologically into that time frame. At first, things will be new, different, and exciting. New people, students, lots to see and do...what differences?

We are all the same. We are human. After a while, however, you may find that the differences tend to be overwhelming because you cannot control them or fit them into your own cultural suitcase. Little things in the host culture may well become big things in your own value system. Examples: North Americans tend to have certain standards of cleanliness. They have specific attitudes toward being on time. What about the value of human life? What about the value of animal life? Pets? How do you feel about everyone's chopsticks going into the same bowl during dinner? What about your sense of privacy? How will you feel when things on your desk are considered everyone's property?

At about this time, when your own cultural sensibilities have been assaulted, you will begin to start complaining about the host culture as being the cause of your discomfort. Everyone experiences culture shock in a different way, but there are reactions that people go through. In those areas that are unpleasant to you, you might either withdraw or you might get aggressive and fight back. You might lose your temper, complain bitterly, or express negative attitudes to people around you. This might not be appropriate behavior in the host culture.

Let's look at some of these manifestations of culture shock. When a person enters another culture, there are several stages they experience. Almost all stages are experienced no matter the time frame of the stay in the host country.

Initial Euphoria

At first, there is excitement, great expectations for the task at hand, and a positive mindset...the person is open to the host culture and accepting of differences; excited to learn the differences, but similarities are foremost and a person is impressed to find that people everywhere tend to be alike. This feeling of euphoria may last for one week or more.

Gradual Adjustment

When you are finally able to interpret some of the cultural clues, your life takes on some comfort and meaning, your sense of humor returns, and things don't seem so disorienting, you realize that the situation is not hopeless.

Things to Consider

Things to Consider

Adaptation and Biculturalism

You know you are coming out of culture shock when you find you can function in two cultures with confidence. You may adopt some of the personal attitudes and customs or ways of doing things of the host culture. These are things you most probably will miss when you return home and may even seek out in minority communities as a way of countering "Reverse Culture Shock."

It has been shown that a person normally has two low points during their stay in a host culture. Also, they will adjust themselves to the time of their experience. Your thinking about a month-month program might be different than your thinking about a 1-year program and how you deal with the differences and similarities.

So.... You are experiencing Culture Shock. How do you combat it?

L. Robert Kohls, in his text "Survival Kit for Overseas Living," lists the following, below paraphrased:

1. Realize that everyone who goes overseas for a substantial period experiences culture shock in some form or to some degree. It is natural and not a sign that you are deficient or strange. You will live through it, as have thousands of others.
2. Be ready for the culture shock lessons. Culture is a survival mechanism which tells its members not only that their ways of doing things are right, but also that they are superior. Culture shock stems from an in-depth encounter with another culture in which you learn that there are different ways of doing things that are neither wrong nor inferior.
3. Listen to your body and know the symptoms of culture shock.
4. Information-gather on the host nation. Keep a daily diary/ journal listing the similarities and differences. Daily, because each day will bring something new crashing onto you, and you will quickly forget what happened yesterday.
5. Select one or two areas of interest and investigate them more thoroughly. It might be foods, daily routines, sports, learning styles; whatever brings the culture alive.

Things to Consider

6. Look consciously for logical reasons behind anything in the host culture, which seems strange, difficult, confusing, or threatening. Take your experience and look at it from their perspective. Search for patterns and interrelationships. Let go of some of your own cultural baggage as part of the learning process.
7. Try to trace every "strange" action you observe to its underlying values. How do mothers teach their children? Does a holiday have the same meaning in your culture as in the host culture? What are the differences in values? Independence versus dependence? Respect versus backtalk? Care for parents versus doing one's own thing?
8. Make a list of all the positive things you can identify about your present situation. Then tack the list up somewhere where you can see it during the day.
9. Avoid other expatriates who are in a permanent state of culture shock and who spend their days seeking company to commiserate with. Misery feeds on misery and normally spoils an otherwise fine experience.
10. Don't talk down the host culture. Resist making jokes and denigrating comments.
11. Work at maintaining a healthy sense of humor. Be ready to laugh at yourself. Making foolish mistakes can cause you to feel silly or childish, but the embarrassment will pass. Share your foibles with your friends and get rid of them with a good laugh.
12. Find a foreigner who has been there longer, gone through culture shock, and has a positive attitude toward the host culture. They will help you gain some perspective on the experience.
13. Make friends with host nationals and try to develop a deeper relationship with some of them. Explore the cultural differences.
14. When looking for advice, focus on how you are feeling rather than on what you consider are the causes of the discomfort.
15. Don't worry about losing your own values in the face of new perspectives. You will be gaining a much broader understanding of the world from different points of view, rather than retaining a narrow point of view from one culture.

Things to Consider

16. Keep busy; keep active; keep your mind occupied. Don't sit around and feel sorry for yourself.
17. Find something amusing in the circumstances.
18. When you are really at a low point, get away to a scenic spot; take a walk; see something new; think about how you will explain all of this to relatives and friends back home; realize that you are in a truly unique experience.
19. Know that you will survive culture shock and be the wiser and stronger for having experienced it.

Re-entry

Returning Home



Your experience will have been exciting, enlightening, and certainly broadening. It will have been positive with a few bumps as you and your family adjusted to new ideas and situations. Everyone has learned from the experience and when it is time to leave, you and the family will be sorry that the experience cannot extend. You will all, however, be happy

that your paths have crossed and that friendships could be forged. Future communication will keep the experiences alive and allow for continued sharing.

Reentry to your own culture presents its own challenges. International travel and experiences are an adventure placing you apart from friends and family. What you have experienced is very personal. Leaving such an intense social experience can be difficult and you may not wish to let go of the moment. There will be a feeling of loss. This can be reduced some with continued contact via letters, telephone calls, e-mails, or working towards a reverse visit to your own culture.

After your return, you may notice that some previous relationships may have shifted some. Your attitudes and ideas may have broadened because of your adventures and new international family circle, and it may be difficult to explain your experience – or to have others feel the same way about them as you.

It may be difficult to explain your feelings about your host family and what you have seen and done while abroad. Experiences may come tumbling out and not make sense to others. People who have not experienced similar situations may not fully understand your excitement at sharing your own adventures.

At times, you will have had the opportunity to view your own culture through the eyes of the host culture. You may see flaws in your own society you haven't noticed in the past. You might become critical of things for a while as you make mental comparisons. You may wish to keep personal critical observations to yourself until you have gained perspective and objectivity involving both cultures.

Re-entry

Re-entry

You may have adopted a new style of dress or manners or working through a different language. These can sometimes be misunderstood by people at home and seem as if you are boasting. Be aware of the reaction of others as you reenter your own culture.

After your return, it may seem that the old routines of the past are boring and not very exciting in light of your adventures. This is natural as you will miss the challenges and new friends and daily adventures of the foreign culture. You will need to find ways to offset any negative feelings and to build on the positive experience you have had.

Yours has been a unique and personal adventure that will certainly broaden your mind as you accept future challenges. The contacts you have made will be with you throughout your life, adding dimension and background to your future personal growth.

Your Own Bag of Tricks

Suggestions for the Younger Student: Ages 3 to 6 Years



Younger language learners jump into any task with no pre-conceived ideas. They are not yet able to 'intellectualize' the experience but will joyfully take on the new and readily incorporate what they are learning. Everything is new.

Remember that young learners have a short and limited attention span and, while open to new experiences, will often tire of a task, and want other stimulation.

The teacher needs to be ready with a Plan A, Plan B, and a Plan C. Depending on when in the day you will be working with the child, remember that over stimulation will lead to fatigue. Rainy day activities should be in your bag of tricks, right along with outside activities.

Younger students enjoy color, activities involving hand/eye coordination, songs, physical games or activities, and stories involving body language. Being able to identify items in another language gives personal satisfaction along with praise from the adult. Puppets (finger and hand) are particularly good ways to express stories or language. Younger learners enjoy learning by doing. They also learn well through interaction with other young learners. Play and physical activities are natural to them, and they will quickly incorporate words to fit the actions and experiences. There is no need to intellectualize with the younger learner or to correct mistakes. Repetition as a way of giving correct models to follow will do well. Talk with the parents to see goals they may have in mind and how their child responds to different situations. Review your own expectations with the child's age in mind. Be flexible.

Section 2

Teaching

Things to Remember

- Short-term tasks
- Lots of color in anything you do
- Visuals
- Puppets: simple stories
- Task-specific simple vocabulary
- Materials for drawing or painting
- Use of the child's own toys in creative activities
- Games that include:
 - What is this/that.....
 - Where is this/that...
 - I see something (color)...
 - When is....

Depending on the age of the child, the concepts of in/out, up/down, directions, and telling time are good activities. Take clues from the child's culture as guidance in what the child is already learning. If you have the chance, try to visit the child's school as an observer.

It is important to gain the child's confidence. Taking walks, going to the park with the child and parents or family members is a good way to become integrated into the child's life. Learn what the time schedule is for the younger learner, as this will be a guide to tiredness and optimum learning times.

If you play a harmonica or musical instrument, this may be a good way to enter into the child's life and a great way to teach simple songs. If you know you will be in a home with young children, visit a children's store to purchase a book of songs for truly young people.

It is important to remember that anything can be used in language teaching and learning. You are creative and imaginative, and the child will go along with you in normal circumstances. Activities, color, movement, short tasks, simple vocabulary, and revised expectations, depending on the situation, are all important to attaining your goals.

Suggestions for Middle/High School/ Adult Learners

Here we go with some Conversation Starters

Brown Bag Impromptu Talks:

1. My favorite song. Why.
2. My plans for the future.
3. The proudest day of my life and why.
4. What I like about people and why.
5. What I dislike about people and why.
6. The subject I like the most in school and why.
7. The subject I like the least in school and why.
8. My favorite actor or actress.
9. My neighbors (describe).
10. The greatest mistake of my life and what happened.
11. My home (describe).
12. My parents (describe)
13. What I do in my spare time.
14. My favorite holiday and why.
15. My hometown (describe).
16. The best vacation I ever had and why.
17. My favorite book and why.
18. My favorite sport and why.
19. My hobbies.
20. My country is famous for...
21. Foods I like and dislike.
22. What is friendship?
23. Something that is not fair.
24. Something I hate doing.

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25. Something I love doing.
26. The best thing to happen to me today.
27. Riches are for spending. Agree/Disagree
28. An unexpected event (describe).

What Would Happen If...?

1. Everyone who told a lie turned green? (good for a 'white lie' discussion)
2. If men were not allowed to become doctors or pilots?
3. If gold were found in your area?
4. If a film was made at your school (with a famous actor or actress)?
5. If you won a trip for two to the city of your choice?

What Would You Do If....?

1. If you saw a teacher steal something from another person's belongings?
2. If it rained every day of your holiday?
3. If you received a love letter from someone you didn't like?
4. If you found a snake under your bed?
5. If you were not able to remember numbers (How important are numbers)?
6. If someone hit a small child very hard in your presence?
7. If you found a large sum of money in a library book?
8. If you suddenly found you could become invisible by eating cucumbers?
9. If you broke an expensive vase while you were visiting in a friend's home?
10. If you could never sleep at night?
11. If.....

Add your own to the list. These are all good discussion topics and a good way to compare cultures.

I'd Rather Be.....

(A 'choice' exercise. Students should defend their choice).

hammer – nail

glass – wood

rose – cactus

Water – fire

mineral water – whiskey

bitter – sweet

square – round

beauty – ugly

cold – hot

sparrow – snail

candle – light bulb

hawk – mouse

village – city

chicken – egg

orange – potato

Create a Story

Create a list of 10 – 20 random words that can be either noun or verb or might have more than one meaning. Students need to create a story using each of the words. Words can be rearranged and put into created sentences. Since you will have four students, this can be done in pairs for more fun and interaction. Dictionaries can be used for word meaning.

Teaching

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Here are some random questions...

1. How does a person decide whom to marry?
2. What is the best age for a person to get married?
3. How can a stranger tell if two people are married?
4. What do most people do on a date?
5. When is it OK to kiss someone?
6. Is it better to be single or married?
7. Any What, How, Why, When questions..... Be Creative!

Hangman is always a good quick vocabulary review.

Creating word search puzzles are good. Using the Word Search puzzle books you bring are great for vocabulary building.

Use available English language newspapers for reading skills. Have student describe the chosen article.

Group Discussion Topics

These can be used as discussion or writing topics. They ask for opinion. Students may wish to keep a private journal of their writing.

1. Misunderstandings between the older and younger generations.
2. Women's role in modern society.
3. What are sports popular?
4. The population explosion.
5. How we can improve our natural environment.
6. Goals of developing countries.
7. Responsibilities of developed countries.
8. Features of the English language that a non-native speaker finds difficult.
9. The role of TV, books, radio, movies, magazines in our lives.
10. Qualities of a good student/teacher/parent.
11. Childhood is the happiest time of life.
12. The younger (older) generation knows best.

13. Travel is the best education.
14. Examinations are unnecessary.
15. Old traditions prevent progress.
16. Civilization brings progress.
17. Fashion contributes much to society.
18. The education system should be reformed.
19. Parents are too permissive with their children these days.
20. It is better to marry for money than for love. (Or you can reverse this)

Idioms are always found in all languages.

You may wish to tuck in a little idiom book. These are fun when they come up in discussion. Example: He got the answer right off the bat. Many of these examples can be found from the students' class books or from story books.

Maps

Asking for and giving directions is extremely important in any culture. Have the students describe how to get you from where you are standing to some location in the area or city. They will need to use the terms right, left, straight ahead, names of buildings, streets, any necessary transportation.

Exploration



It is always fun to walk and talk. Excursions into the city, visits to museums, parks, or just walking and talking with the students as tour guides for you. Sometimes a silent walk is good and upon return ask the students to list what they saw or what they heard. Each student will have observed or heard different things.

Stereotyping

Throw out names of professions to the students asking them to say 'man' or 'woman' as first comes to mind. At the same time, list them on a board or large piece of paper. These can include doctor, nurse, taxi driver, clerk in a store, teacher (elementary), teacher (secondary), college professor, airline pilot, airline service attendant, bus driver, bank manager, business owner, etc. This exercise brings into sharp focus stereotypes and preconceived ideas and opens discussion about cultural differences.

Magazine photographs and advertisements are always good for descriptions.

Proverbs

This is a fun way to compare cultures and for you to learn more about the French. They add to vocabulary and idioms. Ask the students what the proverb means, is it good advice, do they have similar sayings, what historical period does the proverb suggest, or what might be the origins of the proverbs.

1. Variety is the spice of Life.
2. It's an ill wind that blows no good.
3. Many hands make light work.
4. You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
5. Children should be seen and not heard.
6. A fool and his money are soon parted.
7. Beauty is skin deep.
8. Never put off until tomorrow what can be done today.
9. A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
10. Every cloud has a silver lining.
11. Haste makes waste.
12. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.
13. Out of the frying pan, into the fire.
14. Let sleeping dogs lie.
15. Birds of a feather flock together.
16. Rome was not built in a day.
17. Better to be safe than sorry.
18. Charity begins at home.
19. Oil and water don't mix.
20. No news is good news.
21. When poverty comes to the door, love flies out the window.
22. It's no use crying over spilt milk.
23. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.
24. Practice makes perfect.
25. Give him an inch and he'll take a mile.

26. Necessity is the mother of invention.
27. Misery loves company.
28. Spare the rod and spoil the child.
29. A rolling stone gathers no moss.
30. Don't count your chickens until they're hatched.
31. Actions speak louder than words.
32. Where there's a will, there's a way.
33. Honesty is the best policy.
34. Don't cross the bridge until you come to it.

Internet Links & Ideas

Need some ideas in a hurry? Check some of the Internet sites below that offer creative ideas. It is good if you also see what works for you in the culture and that you keep a list of what works and what might be best in a "Good Idea" file for future use.

Dave's ESL Café.com (good exercises and ideas; good site to learn about other expats throughout the world)

Transitionsabroad.com

flashcards; worksheets: www.ESLhq.com

variety of activities: www.A4esl.org

www.ESLtopsites.com

www.uq.edu.au

directory of sites; teaching materials; target levels:
www.teachenglishinasia.net

www.eslmania.com/students/reference_tools

links for students; good directory site:
www.esl-galaxy.com/kidlinks.html

www.volunteerenglish.org/uep_esl_linksTutor.php

downloadable materials: www.sitesforteachers.com

www.madisonK12.wi.edu/cserv/eslwebsites.html

Learning English link: www.bbc.co.uk

www.google.com

There are many more sites to explore. Often, the college or university you attended has a directory of materials available. The ideas we offer in this booklet are simply "starters" to help depending on the age of the child(ren) in the family.

Your Important Contact Information

Notes

Teaching

This image shows a full page of blank handwriting practice paper. It features multiple sets of three horizontal blue lines each, designed to guide letter height and placement. The lines are evenly spaced across the entire page, providing a structured environment for practicing cursive or other handwriting styles. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

