

#### Reading

# **Culture Shock**

According to the United Nations Population Fund, in 2013, 232 million people, 3.2 percent of the world's population, lived outside their home country. In 2009, the United States and the United Kingdom were the most popular places to move to. However, people also leave these places. In 2013, the United Kingdom lost 400 citizens a day. Many of these people were college educated and looking for other job and social opportunities. There's a phrase for the effect making your home in another society and culture has on you: Culture Shock. A shock is a bad surprise, but that's not actually how most people experience culture shock. Culture shock is when someone feels he or she doesn't belong in a new country. First, most people feel excitement at being in a new place: there are opportunities and possibilities. However, the second stage is different. People now notice how the new place is different from home. Everyday things like ordering food in a restaurant, shopping, and using the train are different. These small things can seem big. They compare their new place to home. They think of home as better. When you know how to do things, like communicate in the language, it's easier. At this point, many people feel lonely. And feeling lonely can affect how you communicate with others. Lonely people often see other people as a danger. They don't trust them. As a result, they don't talk to others. There are people all around them, but they feel that they don't belong.

A university website gives tips for people to follow to help with culture shock: (1) Do not think things will be like they are at home. How people do business and communicate and what times of day they eat are often different. (2) Talk to people. Show you want to learn about them and their culture. (3) Do not let one person's actions affect your idea of the whole society. (4) Understand that everyday things, such as how close people stand to one another, how people wait in line, and how long people pause in conversations, are different. For example, during conversations, most Americans do not let much time pass before they feel the need to start speaking. Other cultures are much more comfortable with pauses in conversation. People in different cultures have different values. Try to notice these things and understand the new culture you are in. You may want to connect with others from home. While it can be helpful to be with people from your country, try to identify with others. This doesn't mean you have to change who you are to fit in. Think about what you can share and what you can learn. If you concentrate on these things, then you can begin to feel less lonely. Maybe you are different, but you can be different and also \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a bad surprise

when someone feels he or she doesn't belong in a new country

## Tips from a university website:

- 1. Do not think things will be like they are at home.
  - 2. Understand that everyday things are different.
    - 3. Talk to people.
      - **4.** Do not let one person's actions affect your idea of the whole society.

Making Home in Another Society and Culture

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### **Homework:**

Please write a <u>comment</u> on the passage. Give an overall <u>summary</u> at the beginning, and then include <u>your</u> thoughts on culture shock.

