

Unit 6 Overseas Travel

Warm up

Match the sights with the countries.

France

Egypt

Japan

Australia



Reading

Japanese Culture

Weather

Japan lies to the east of China. It is an island nation with a population of 120 million people. In spring, Japan has fair weather. You can enjoy the National Cherry Blossom Festival in the gentle breeze. You will regret it if you don't bring your camera to take pictures. Summer is the rainy season in Japan. If you choose to visit Japan in summer, you had better bring your rain coat.



Eating customs

When you eat in Japanese restaurants, you will be provided with a small wet cloth to clean your hands before the meal. Remember you should not use it as a napkin. When you are eating, slurping is acceptable because it shows that you are enjoying the food. In addition, in Japanese dinner parties, everyone will be served drinks. You had better wait to drink until someone offers a toast, yelling "kanpai" (cheers).



Social manners

Showing politeness is essential in Japanese daily communication. In Japan, people greet each other by shaking hands or bowing. When you enter Japanese homes or hotels, you had better take off your shoes and put on slippers which



are provided at the doorway. But you need to change into another pair of special plastic slippers when you go to the washroom.

Comprehension Task

Answer the following questions according to the reading.

1. What should you take with you when you travel to Japan in spring or in summer?
2. What should you do in Japanese dinner parties?
3. What should you do when you go into someone's house in Japan?

Communication Task

Discuss these questions in groups and share with other students.

1. What do you know about Japanese animation, Japanese language or Japanese drama?
2. What other foreign cultures do you know? What do you know about these cultures?
3. Would you like to travel to Japan, why or why not?

Grammar Task

Choose an appropriate modal verb to complete the sentence.

e.g. There will be huge downpours and strong wind this weekend. You had better keep your rain coat with you.

1. We _____ (not) drink till the toast or we may be seen as impolite.
2. Amy _____ take off her shoes when she visits her Japanese friend's house.
3. The small wet cloth is used to clean your hands. Thus, you _____ not use it as a napkin.
4. You look tired. You _____ stay at home and have a rest.
5. Everyone _____ obey the teacher. There are no excuses for not doing so.
6. You _____ take an umbrella in case it rains.

Match the following boxes to form correct and meaningful sequences.

You should watch this movie.	It's good for your health.
You had better close the window.	If you have classes tomorrow.
You should eat more vegetables.	It is very interesting!
You had better not stay up late.	Or you won't finish your work.
You should not believe her.	It's getting cold outside.
You had better start now.	She always tells lies.

Communication Task

Work in groups and think of three Chinese traditional festivals. Describe how people spend these festivals and then share with other groups.

Dialogue

- Lisa: Hey, Ben. You travel abroad a lot, don't you?
- Ben: Yeah, I love to experience different cultures.
- Lisa: Have you had any interesting experiences in other foreign countries?
- Ben: Of course! In Egypt last year, my tour guide would always say "please wait 5 minutes." Actually, I often waited for more than 30 minutes.
- Lisa: You mean their concept of time is different from ours?
- Ben: Yeah, if an Egyptian tells you to wait for an hour, it could mean you should reschedule it to get there.
- Lisa: Oh, how strange!
- Ben: How about you? I heard you went to France last summer.
- Lisa: Yes, I found that many French people don't like to speak English, you know, even though they can understand it. If you speak English to them, they might answer in French.
- Ben: Really? How did you communicate with them?
- Lisa: Well, I can speak a little bit of French. If you speak French, they **may** be happier.
- Ben: I think I had better learn some French before I go there.



Comprehension Task

Look at these sentences. Are they true or false according to the dialogue? Write T or F. If it is false, correct it.

1. _____ Ben likes traveling.
2. _____ Ben hasn't been to Africa.
3. _____ Ben's tour guide is punctual.
4. _____ Lisa might saw the Eiffel Tower last summer.
5. _____ English is commonly used in France.

Which countries have Ben and Lisa been to? Retell their experiences in your own words.



Listening Task

Listen to the first part of the interview. Choose “T” (True) or “F” (False) for the following statements.

- _____ Ben has no experience with kids.
- _____ It is the first time that Ben participates in voluntary activities.
- _____ Ben is applying for this job because he wants to earn money.
- _____ Ben believes that voluntary activities can help people.

Listen to the second part of the interview. Fill in the blank. Write down the words you hear.

Ben’s major is 1) _____, and his background has helped him get to know and understand different cultures. He also went to many countries before like 2) _____, Cambodia, 3) _____, and so on. For example, he went to Cambodia as a 4) _____ last year, and he 5) _____ to the local culture and customs in a very short time. So, he has 6) _____ that he can adapt to different cultural environment. And, he is 7) _____ in both Chinese and English. So, he can 8) _____ well with his team members and kids. In a Mosque, he 9) _____ shorts and he was not allowed to go inside. Mosques have customs and rules that men 10) _____ not wear shorts when they enter, but he had no idea about that because he didn’t know their culture. So, he pays 11) _____ attention to the local culture and customs before visiting a place, and he hasn’t 12) _____ any mistakes since then.

Communication Task

Listen to the complete interview again. Work in pairs and answer the questions in your own words.

1. How would you describe Ben’s personality?
2. Retell Ben’s experiences in the Mosque.
3. What voluntary organizations do you know?
4. What’s the value of being a volunteer?
5. Do you want to be a volunteer? Why or why not?



Communication Task

Work with a partner and create an interview.

The Shenzhen Cultural Creative Institute is looking for a trainee to join their culture center in Beijing. Candidates should be fluent in both Mandarin and English. The main job of the trainee is editing cultural creative proposals and assisting in the decoration of exhibitions. The Shenzhen Cultural Creative Institute offers its employees a two-year contract and standard benefits.

What influenced you to choose this line of work?

I am interested in culture creation and management...

Writing

Have you been to Spain before? Do you know anything about Spain? Create a description of Spain with your partner based on the information below.

Name	Spain																																							
Location																																								
Capital	Madrid																																							
Population	46,610,000																																							
Official language	Spanish																																							
Climate	<table border="1"> <caption>Climatogram Data (Estimated)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Days of raining</th> <th>Temperature (°C)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Jan</td><td>6</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>Feb</td><td>6</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>Mar</td><td>5</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>Apr</td><td>7</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>May</td><td>8</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>Jun</td><td>4</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>Jul</td><td>2</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>Aug</td><td>2</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>Sep</td><td>3</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>Oct</td><td>6</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>Nov</td><td>6</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>Dec</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Days of raining	Temperature (°C)	Jan	6	8	Feb	6	10	Mar	5	13	Apr	7	15	May	8	18	Jun	4	22	Jul	2	27	Aug	2	28	Sep	3	24	Oct	6	18	Nov	6	12	Dec	7	8
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<p>Famous events</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Spanish Bullfight</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Flamenco</p>
<p>Special customs</p>	<p>Wake up late and go to bed late Lunch time begins at 2pm Dinner time begins at 9 pm</p>	

Complete the description of Spain according to the information you have just complied.

Spain

Spain is a country in the _____ of Europe, _____ about 47 million people. There are 17 autonomous communities in Spain, and the _____ city is Madrid. Mediterranean is the typical climate in Spain. Generally, it is _____ and _____ in summer while it is _____ and _____ in winter.

Spanish is the _____ language. People from most of the communities speak Spanish in their daily life. However, in international business contexts, people may use English to communicate with each other.

There are some interesting events and special customs in Spain. Spanish _____ is famous all around the world. Also, Spanish people are keen on the passionate dance - _____. For most Spanish people, _____ and _____ late is a common habit. Therefore, it _____ be better to visit a Spanish family after 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.



Write a description of another country in about 150 words. You can choose either your own country or a foreign country.

- Climate
- Language
- Customs
- Famous events

Grammar Awareness

Can, Could, and Be Able To to express ability

Use *can(not) + base verb* to express ability in the present or future.

I **can** speak English, Spanish, and French.

Use *could(n't) + base verb* to express ability in the past.

I **couldn't** speak Chinese three years ago.

Subject	Modal (+not)	Base Verb		
I	can	talk play	now	Express ability in the present or future
We	cannot/ can't		later	
You	could		yesterday	Express ability in the past
They He/She/It	could not/ couldn't			

Am/is/are able to and *was/were able to* have the same general meaning as *can* and *could*. *Can* and *could* are more common in speech.

I **can** understand the article.

I **am able to** understand the article.

When we want to suggest that something is frustrating or difficult, we usually use *be able to*.

I **wasn't able to** do all of the math problems.

Subject	Be			Able to	Base Verb
	present	past	future		
I	am	was	will be	able to	talk play
We	are	were			
You					
They					
He/She/It	is	was			

May, Might and Could + a base verb to express possibility

Use *may, might, or could + base verb* to express something that is possible now or in the future.

May, might, and could mean "perhaps."

It **may** be rainy.

He **might** get hurt.

The air ticket **could** be cheaper.

Also use *could + base verb* to express past ability, to ask for permission, and to make requests.

I **could** dance well when I was young. (past ability)

Could I leave now please? (permission)

Could you help me? (request)

Also use *may + base verb* to ask for permission.

May I have your name?

Subject	Modal (+not)	Base Verb	When expressing possibility
I	may	go. be late.	Do not use <i>may</i> in Yes/No questions
We	might		Can use <i>might</i> in Yes/No questions, but it is very formal
You	may not		Do not contract may and might with not
They	might not		
He/She/It	could		Do not use <i>could</i> in the negative

Should and Had Better to give advice

Use *should* + *base verb* to say what is the best or right thing to do.

You **should** bring your camera.

You **should not** use it as a napkin.

Use *had better* + *base verb* to give a strong recommendation. *Had better* often suggests a warning and is stronger than *should*.

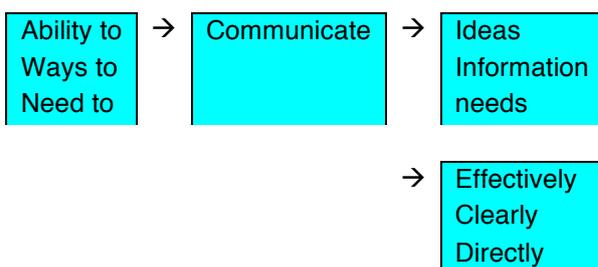
It is raining. You **had better** bring an umbrella.

We **had better not** be late, or we'll miss the train.

Rarely use *had better* in questions.

Subject	Modal	Base Verb
I	should	wait. eat. leave.
We	should not (shouldn't)	
You	had better ('d better)	
They	had better not ('d better not)	
He/She/It	had better not ('d better not)	

Word Awareness



Examples

Language is the result of the need to communicate.

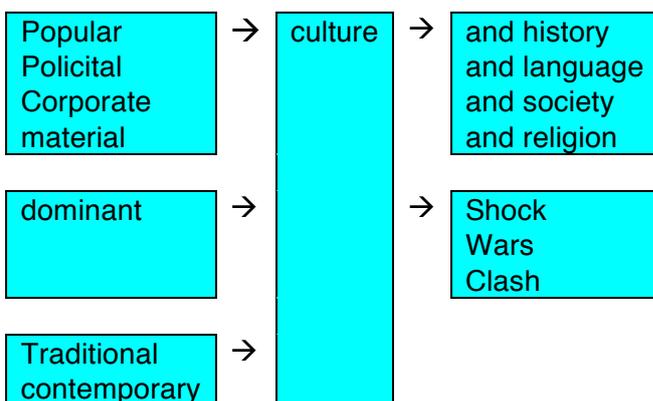
It affects their ability to communicate in an interview.

We find better ways to communicate with each other.

We can communicate ideas/ information /messages /needs to others.

They were able to communicate effectively/directly/clearly.

Pattern	Example
+ with + somebody	communicate with each other communicate with parents communicate with customers
+ through + something	communicate through the medium of music communicate through instant message communicate through e-mail



Examples

I think popular culture is more important than it ever has been.

There is a certain traditional political culture here in Russia.

There is strong corporate culture that guides all of this.

Evidence also indicates variation linked to changes in American material culture.

Nodding represents agreeing and understanding in the dominant culture in the United States.

They do not necessarily denote a complete abandonment of traditional culture.

It belongs to a way of life that's different from contemporary culture.

It is useful to learn how to blend central values of culture and history.

Their culture and language would vanish.

Music has been a part of culture and society throughout history.

We play by their rules and respect their culture and religion.

They've handled the culture shock without too much trouble.

Climate change has been enmeshed in the culture wars.

She is interested in writing stories about culture clash featuring Arab and American characters.

Words you need to know

- advertisement** (N) A public notice, as a printed display in a newspaper, short film on television, announcement on radio, etc, designed to sell goods, publicize an event, etc. 广告
- blossom** (N) The flower of a plant, especially of one producing an edible fruit. 花; 开花
- breeze** (N) A wind or current of air, especially a light or moderate one. 微风
- candidate** (N) A person seeking for election to a position of authority or honour or selection for a job, promotion, etc. 候选人
- communication** The act or process of interchanging thoughts, feelings, information, or the like, by writing, speaking. 交通; 交流
- competent** (Adj.) Having sufficient or qualified skill and knowledge for something. 有能力的
- essential** (Adj.) Something absolutely necessary or extremely important. 必须的
- exhibition** (N) A public display of art, products, skills, activities, etc. 展览会
- experience** (V) To feel or join in activities or events. 经历; 体验
- in addition** (Adv.) also; as well as. 另外
- participate** (V) To take part in or become involved in something. 参加
- personality** (N) Distinctive qualities of a person. 性格; 个性
- population** (N) All the people of a particular race or class in a specific area. 人口
- provide** (V) If you provide something that someone needs or wants, you give it to them or make it available to them. 提供
- toast** (N) A salutation or a few words of congratulation, good wishes, appreciation, remembrance, etc., uttered immediately before drinking to a person, event, etc. 祝酒; 祝酒词
- voluntary** (Adj.) Acting or done willingly without expectation of reward. 自愿的; 志愿的