



## To Guarantee Successful Relationships with Americans

- ✓ **Be informal cultural ambassadors.** Be aware that many Americans know little about your country so share your cultural knowledge as much as you can.
- ✓ **Realize that if you speak your native language in front of Americans, they may feel excluded.** You often have the advantage of being bilingual, but many Americans feel uncomfortable listening to a language they don't understand.
- ✓ **Invite Americans to dinner to try your food that you make in your country.** We generally like to try new foods from other countries.
- ✓ **Read the daily newspaper for conversational topics.** Get beyond the sports, TV, and weather topics by discussing current topics with Americans.
- ✓ **Observe the conversational style of Americans.** Usually Americans are brief, say one sentence or two, and then wait for feedback from the listener.
- ✓ **Learn as many idiomatic expressions as you can.** Using American idioms will make your speech sound more natural.
- ✓ **Refrain from asking about their families.** Many Americans do not live with a traditional family. They may not want to talk about their families, a topic they consider very personal.
- ✓ **Be careful about misinterpreting American informality for true friendship.** Foreigners often misunderstand American friendliness for serious invitations or signs of friendship rather than just being an open society or as a way of saying goodbye.
- ✓ **Be aware that most Americans call each other by their first name.** Try not to feel offended if Americans begin to call you by your first name rather than a more formal title or your last name.
- ✓ **Use the expression, "I'd rather not say,"** as a response if you are asked too many personal questions.



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