



To Guarantee Successful Relationships with Foreigners

- ✓ **Limit use of slang or jokes with foreigners.** These usually do not translate well, and could be misinterpreted.
- ✓ **Learn about foreigners' countries.** Get a world almanac and ask questions about their customs and geography.
- ✓ **Give foreigners a chance to speak.** Try to shift the topic of conversation from your personal experience to asking foreigners about their experiences in the U.S.
- ✓ **Be careful with your eating habits.** Nothing makes foreigners judge us more harshly than talking with food in our mouths.
- ✓ **Refrain from putting your feet up on tables.** This practice, along with sitting on a tabletop is part of our American informality but could be misunderstood for bad manners.
- ✓ **Realize that English is a second or third language for many foreigners.** Know that just because foreigners may speak slower in English, it has nothing to do with intelligence.
- ✓ **Ask about their families.** Many foreigners feel very connected to their families, and will easily tell you all about them.
- ✓ **Do what you say you will do.** If you offer to get together or someone at a future date, do exactly that. Foreigners often take American invitations literally rather than just a sign of friendliness or a way to say goodbye.
- ✓ **Pronounce foreigners' first and last names correctly.** Try not to give up easily and begin to call foreigners by a made-up nickname without asking if they like their imposed nickname or not.
- ✓ **Try not to ask too many personal questions too fast.** It usually takes time to build trust and relationships with people from other countries.



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