UNIT 3

World cultures

Can Do! In this unit, you learn how to . . .

Lesson A
- Talk about your culture using the simple present passive

Lesson B
- Talk about customs and manners using verb + *-ing* and *to* + verb

Lesson C
- Use expressions like *to be honest* to sound more direct
- Use *of course* to give information that is not surprising, or to agree

Lesson D
- Read an article about proverbs
- Write an article about a favorite proverb


1


2


3


4


5


6

Before you begin . . .

What are some of the cultural traditions in your country? Think of a typical . . .

- dish or drink.
- type of music or dance.
- symbol.
- festival.
- item of clothing.
- handicraft.

Traditional things

What not to miss . . .

WE ASKED PEOPLE:
What's one thing you shouldn't miss on a visit to . . . ?



SOUTH KOREA

"Oh, Korean food! We have so many different dishes. One typical dish is *kimbap*. It's made with rice and vegetables and wrapped in dried seaweed. And it's eaten cold. It's delicious." –Min-hee Park



PERU

"Well, Peru has some beautiful handicrafts. A lot of them are exported nowadays, and they're sold all over the world. But it's still worth visiting a local market. These earrings are made locally. They're made of silver." –Elena Camacho



JAPAN

"A Japanese festival like the Sapporo Ice Festival – that's really worth seeing. It's held every February. They have all these sculptures that are carved out of ice – and they're carved by teams from all over the world. It's amazing." –Sachio Ito



AUSTRALIA

"Oh, you should go to a performance of traditional Aboriginal music. They play this instrument – it's called a *didgeridoo*. It's made out of a hollow piece of wood and painted by hand. It makes a really interesting sound." –Robert Flynn

1 Getting started

A **Look at the countries above. What do you know about each country? Make a list of ideas.**

B 1.21 **Listen. What aspect of their country's culture does each person talk about?**

Figure it out **C** **Rewrite the sentences below, but keep the same meaning. Use the comments above to help you.**

1. You eat *kimbap* cold.
   Kimbap _____ cold.
2. People make earrings like these locally.
   Earrings like these _____ locally.
3. They export a lot of handicrafts.
   A lot of handicrafts _____ .
4. Teams from all over the world carve the sculptures.
   The sculptures _____ by teams from all over the world.

2 Grammar The simple present passive 1.22

Extra practice p. 142

Use the passive when the "doer" of the action is not known or not important.

Active	Passive
How do they make *kimbap*? They make it with rice and vegetables.	How **is** *kimbap* **made**? It**'s made** with rice and vegetables.
Do they eat it hot or cold? They eat it cold. They don't eat it hot.	**Is** it **eaten** hot or cold? It**'s eaten** cold. It**'s** not **eaten** hot.
They carve the sculptures out of ice.	The sculptures **are carved** out of ice.

If the "doer" of the action is important, you can introduce it with *by*.

The sculptures **are carved by** teams from all over the world.

In conversation

The most common passive verbs are ***made***, ***done***, and ***called***.

Common errors

Be sure to use the verb *be* in the present simple passive.

*The sculptures **are** carved out of ice.*
(NOT ~~*The sculptures carved out of ice*~~.)

About you **A** **Rewrite the questions about your country. Then write true answers. Use the simple present passive.**

1. When do people sing the national anthem?
   When is the national anthem sung? It's sung . . .
2. How do you make your favorite traditional food? Do you serve it cold?
3. Do both men and women play your country's national sports?
4. When do people celebrate your most important festivals? Does everybody celebrate them?
5. When do people wear the national costume? Do people wear it a lot?
6. Do people play traditional folk music?
7. Do people make traditional handicrafts? Where do they sell them?

About you **B** **Pair work** **Compare your answers with a partner. Can you add more ideas?**

3 Speaking naturally Silent syllables

ev~~e~~ry *diff~~e~~rent* *int~~e~~resting* *veg~~e~~table*

A 1.23 **Listen and repeat the words. Notice that the unstressed vowels are not pronounced.**

B 1.24 **Listen to people talk about their cities. Cross out the vowel that is not pronounced in the underlined words. Then read the sentences to a partner.**

1. Broc, Switzerland: We're known for our chocolate, which is sold all over the world. If you're really interested, you can visit a factory to learn about the history of chocolate and how it's made.
2. Coober Pedy, Australia: The average temperature here in summer is almost 40°C, so it's much cooler to live underground. It's definitely something different for travelers!
3. Akihabara, Japan: If you want a camera, then you have to shop here. Practically every brand of electronic and computer goods is displayed here!
4. Boyacá, Colombia: Emeralds are mined all over the world, but our region has some of the best and most valuable stones. They're mostly exported and made into jewelry.

About you **C** **Choose a city, region, or country, and tell the class what it's known for. Guess the places your classmates talk about.**

"This place is known for its wooden dolls. They're painted by local artists."

Manners

1 Building vocabulary and grammar

A 1.25 **Listen. Are these statements true in your country? Check (✓) True or False.**







	True	False
1. Eating food on a subway or bus is bad manners.	☐	☐
2. It's rude to **cut in line**.	☐	☐
3. You should try to **keep your voice down** in public.	☐	☐
4. You can offend someone by not **bowing** or **shaking hands** when you meet.	☐	☐
5. People might **stare** at you for **walking around barefoot**.	☐	☐
6. **Having an argument** in public is considered bad manners.	☐	☐
7. It's impolite to walk into someone's home without **taking off your shoes**.	☐	☐
8. **Showing affection** in public – **holding hands** or **kissing** – is inappropriate.	☐	☐
9. You should try not to **stand too close** to people. It's considered rude.	☐	☐
10. It's acceptable not to **tip** cab drivers.	☐	☐
11. You should be careful not to **point at people**.	☐	☐
12. It's customary to **bargain** with street vendors to get something cheaper, but it's not acceptable to do this in a store.	☐	☐

Word sort **B** **What behaviors are considered acceptable in your country? Complete the chart with ideas from above. Add your own ideas. Then compare with a partner.**

It's acceptable to . . .	It's not acceptable to . . .
take your shoes off in the house.	*stand too close to people.*

Figure it out **C** **Circle the correct choices. Are the sentences true in your country? Discuss with a partner.**

Vocabulary notebook p. 30

1. **Cut** / **Cutting** in line is bad manners.
2. You might offend someone by **standing** / **stand** too close.
3. You can offend your host by not **taking** / **to take** off your shoes.
4. It's polite **bow** / **to bow** when you meet someone.
5. It's customary not **to tip** / **tip** cab drivers.

2 Grammar Verb + *-ing* and *to* + verb; position of *not* 1.26

Extra practice p. 142

Verb + *-ing* as a subject
Eating in public is bad manners.
Not shaking hands is impolite.

Verb + *-ing* after prepositions
You can offend people by **eating** in public.
People might stare at you for **not shaking** hands.

to* + verb after *It's . . .
It's bad manners **to eat** in public.
It's impolite **not to shake** hands.

Position of *not*
***Not* comes before the word it negates.**
Be careful **not** to point at people.
You can offend people by **not** bowing.

Notice the difference in meaning:
It's acceptable **not** to tip cab drivers.
(It's optional.)
It's **not** acceptable to tip cab drivers.
(You shouldn't do it.)

A **Complete the sentences about eating at restaurants. Use verb + *-ing* or *to* + verb.**

1. If a friend invites you out to dinner, it's inappropriate _____ (take) another friend with you.
2. It's bad manners _____ (not /call) the restaurant if you have a reservation and you decide to cancel your plans.
3. _____ (arrive) a little late when you meet a big group of friends at a restaurant is acceptable. _____ (not / show) up at all is impolite.
4. If you get to the restaurant before your friend, it's fine _____ (sit) down at the table.
5. It's not acceptable _____ (complain) to your server if you don't like your meal.
6. People might be upset with you for _____ (not / pay) your fair share of the bill.
7. _____ (talk) with your mouth full is considered rude. _____ (take) phone calls during dinner is also bad manners.
8. You can offend the server by _____ (not / leave) a tip. But _____ (give) a smaller tip is fine if the service is bad.
9. _____ (ask) the server for a box to bring your leftover food home is acceptable.
10. It's bad manners _____ (not thank) the person who paid afterwards. _____ (not say) thank you is really impolite.



About you **B** **Pair work** **Discuss the statements above. Which ones do you agree with? Can you add more etiquette advice?**

A Yeah. Taking another friend with you is rude – especially if you're not paying.
B But it's not rude to invite another friend if it's a casual evening out.

About you **C** **Pair work** **What etiquette advice can you think of for the following situations? Make a list and then share with another pair.**

visiting someone's home | going to a birthday party | going to an interview

"Well, when you visit someone's home, you might offend the host by not bringing a gift."

Sounds right p. 137

To be honest, . . .

1 Conversation strategy Sounding more direct

A What kinds of things do people miss about home when they move abroad? Make a list.

B 1.27 Listen. What would David miss if he left Brazil?



Hilda So, when you're living here, do you miss home?

David Um, I don't miss too much, to be honest. Um, I miss my family, of course. . . .

Hilda Right.

David But I definitely don't miss the food! Um, I miss my family. That's about it.

Hilda So, if you went back home, would you miss lots of things about Brazil?

David Oh, yeah. I'd absolutely miss the food here. Yeah. But actually, I think the biggest thing would be . . . it would be weird for me to live in a country where I knew the language already, where all I have to do is work. I just don't see a challenge in that. You know, here every day is a challenge, speaking the language.

Hilda Uh-huh.

David In fact, living back home would be boring, I think. I honestly don't know what I'd do.

C Notice that when David wants to sound more direct or assertive, he uses expressions like these. Find examples in the conversation.

absolutely, definitely, really, actually, certainly, honestly, in fact, to be honest, to tell you the truth

About you **D** Make these statements about living in another country more direct. Use the expressions given. Then discuss each statement with a partner. Do you agree?

1. I'd miss my friends. (definitely) I'd miss everyone. (in fact)
2. I wouldn't miss the weather. (certainly) But I'd miss the food. (really)
3. I'd enjoy living in a different culture. (actually)
4. Learning the language would be a challenge. (to be honest)
5. I wouldn't miss the lifestyle here. (to tell you the truth)
6. I think I'd be scared to go abroad on my own. (honestly)

A ***If I lived in another country, I'd definitely miss my friends!***

B ***Well, yes, but to be honest, it's good to make new friends too.***

2 Strategy plus *of course*

Of course **usually means, "This idea is not surprising. It's what you expect."**

You can also use *Of course* in responses to show you agree or understand.

A I really miss my family.
B Of course.



Note

Be careful when you use *of course*. It can sound abrupt or rude as an answer to a question.

***A** Do you miss your family?*
***B** Oh, yes, I really do.*
(NOT ~~Of course~~.)

In conversation

Of course is one of the top 50 expressions.

A Read the conversations. Which response is more polite? Circle *a* or *b*.

1. Do you think living in another country would be exciting?
   a. Of course it would.
   b. Absolutely. Of course, I'd probably feel homesick at times.
2. Would you learn all about a country before you went?
   a. Well, I guess I'd like to know all about its culture. And, of course, its traditions.
   b. But of course. You really should learn something.
3. Would you take something with you to remind you of home?
   a. Of course.
   b. Probably. Maybe a photo of my cat. Of course, I couldn't take the cat with me, but . . .

About you **B Pair work** **Ask and answer the questions above, giving your own answers. Use *of course* in your answers, but be careful how you use it.**

3 Listening and strategies Away from home

A 1.28 **Listen to Val talk about her experience. Answer the questions.**

1. Why is she living away from home?
2. What has been challenging for her?
3. What has been going well?
4. How does she keep in touch with family? When?

B 1.28 **Listen again. What would Val's friend say about her experience? Check (✓) the sentences.**

1. ☐ To tell you the truth, Val's host sister is pretty unfriendly.
2. ☐ To be honest, she hasn't gotten to know many people.
3. ☐ She's definitely learning about the culture.
4. ☐ Of course, she doesn't like having to be home at ten.
5. ☐ She's certainly homesick. In fact, she wants to go back home right now.

About you **C Group work** **Think about a time you were away from home. Who and what did you miss? How did you keep in touch? Talk about your experience.**

"When I was an exchange student, I missed my friends. Of course, I missed my family, too."

Proverbs

1 Reading

A **Think of a proverb in your language. When is it used, and why?**

B **Read the article. Do you have similar proverbs in your language? Are proverbs used in the same ways?**

Reading tip

Read the first sentence of each paragraph. What do you think each paragraph will be about?

PROVERBS: The wisdom that binds us together

Proverbs exist in every language and culture and are a way of passing down folk wisdom, or "common sense," from generation to generation. Who doesn't remember a time when they were struggling with a problem or dilemma, and someone quoted a proverb that aptly summed up or explained the situation? "All's fair in love and war" describes the injustice that is often encountered in a romantic relationship and may help some of us accept it. "Absence makes the heart grow fonder" is meant to give hope when a loved one is far away. When that same relationship is brought to an end by distance, we hear, "Out of sight, out of mind."

Proverbs have lasted for thousands of years, probably because they're so memorable. Some are short and concise, like "Practice makes perfect" and "Haste makes waste," while others use a poetic language such as metaphors, repetition, and rhymes. The metaphor "Out of the frying pan and into the fire" is easy to visualize when you are faced with a difficult situation that just got even worse. The repetition of the consonant "t" makes it easy to remember "It takes two to tango." The rhyme "When the cat's away, the mice will play" comes to mind as soon as the boss leaves on vacation, and the repetition of the structure in "Once bitten, twice shy" makes this an extremely catchy phrase.

Some scholars who study proverbs look for examples that are unique to a particular culture as a key to understanding cultural differences. Others focus on the proverbs that appear in almost every language as a way of defining a common wisdom that binds all humans together.

Proverbs don't always offer up universal truth, however, and they are frequently contradictory. People say, "Clothes make the man," to reflect the importance of appearance as part of one's personal identity. On the other hand, they also say, "You can't judge a book by its cover," to point out that appearances can be deceptive. And with "Handsome is as handsome does" they stress the value of good behavior over good looks.

So while proverbs can help us grasp some universally shared wisdom, they also force us to recognize that life is complex and that there are no easy answers. The complexity of the human condition as reflected in proverbs is yet another thing that is shared by people around the world.

C **Read the article again. Can you find these things? Compare with a partner.**

1. a function proverbs serve in different languages and cultures
2. two different ways scholars look at proverbs
3. two proverbs that are memorable because they use rhyme
4. three proverbs that are memorable because they repeat consonants, words, or structures
5. two pairs of proverbs that are contradictory
6. two things we can learn when we study proverbs from different cultures

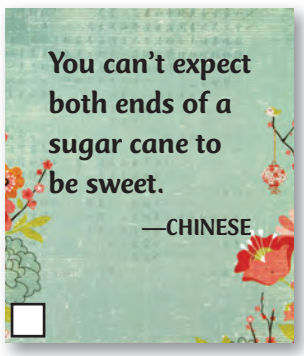
2 Listening and speaking Favorite proverbs

A Can you guess the meaning of the proverbs below? Discuss with a partner.









B 1.29 Listen to four people talk about their favorite proverbs. Number the proverbs above 1 to 4. What do they mean? Did you guess the meaning correctly?

C 1.30 Match each proverb above with a similar English proverb below. Write the numbers. Then listen again as someone comments on each proverb, and check your answers.

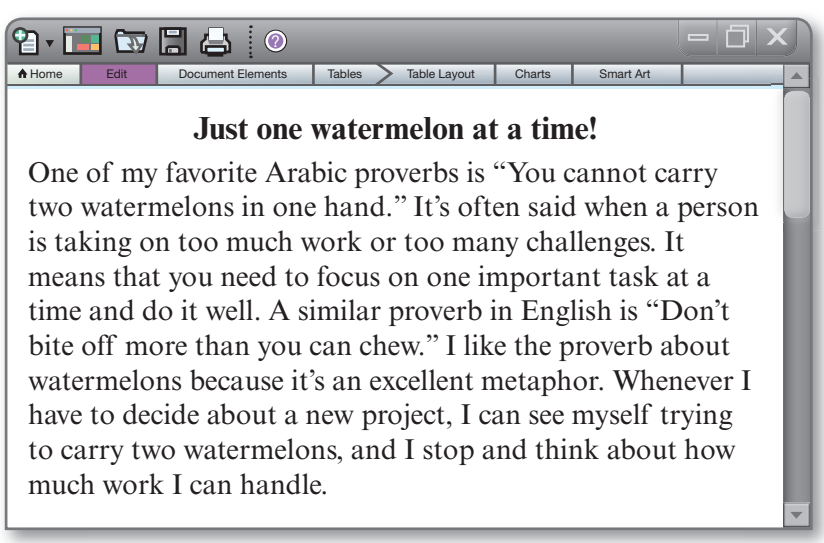
a. You can't have your cake and eat it, too. ____
b. Every cloud has a silver lining. ____
c. If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen. ____
d. Beggars can't be choosers. ____

About you **D** **Pair work** Which of the proverbs above is your favorite? Why? When would you use it?

"'Beggars can't be choosers' is used a lot in our house. My mom is always saying it. It's great because . . ."

3 Writing Explain a proverb

A Read the article below. Find the useful expressions from the Help note, and underline them.



Just one watermelon at a time!

One of my favorite Arabic proverbs is "You cannot carry two watermelons in one hand." It's often said when a person is taking on too much work or too many challenges. It means that you need to focus on one important task at a time and do it well. A similar proverb in English is "Don't bite off more than you can chew." I like the proverb about watermelons because it's an excellent metaphor. Whenever I have to decide about a new project, I can see myself trying to carry two watermelons, and I stop and think about how much work I can handle.

Help note

Useful expressions

One of my favorite proverbs is " . . . "
It's often said when . . .
It means that . . .
A similar proverb in English is " . . . "
I like it because . . .

B Write a short article about your favorite proverb. Say why you like it and what it means. Then read your classmates' articles. Did anyone choose the same proverb?

Free talk p. 130

Vocabulary notebook

Travel etiquette

Learning tip *Finding examples*

When you learn a new expression, find examples on the Internet. Type the expressions into an Internet search engine with quotation marks (“ ”) around it.



1 **Complete the sentences using the words and expressions in the box.**

bowing	having an argument	kissing	to take off	walking around barefoot
eating	to keep your voice down	to cut in line	to shake hands	

1. In Japan, _____ is customary when two people introduce themselves.
2. In the United States, it’s polite _____ firmly when you are introduced to a colleague.
3. In South Korea, _____ food on the subway is considered rude.
4. In many places of worship in Asia, it’s polite _____ your hat and shoes.
5. In Chile, people often say hello by _____ each other on the cheek.
6. In Australia, _____ is acceptable at beach resorts, but not in public buildings.
7. In Taiwan, _____ in public is considered impolite. It’s better _____ .
8. In Great Britain, it’s considered rude _____ . You should always wait your turn.

2 **Word builder** **Find the meaning of the words and expressions. Write a tip for each one.**

blow your nose	burp	offer your seat to someone	swear



On your own

Find a travel guide for a country you’d like to visit. Find six things you should or shouldn’t do if you go there.

Can Do! Now I can . . .

☑ I can . . . ? I need to review how to . . .

- ☐ talk about my country’s cultural traditions.
- ☐ talk about manners, customs, and appropriate behavior in my country.
- ☐ use expressions like *to be honest* to sound more direct.
- ☐ use *of course* to show I understand or agree.
- ☐ understand a conversation about living away from home.
- ☐ understand people explaining proverbs.
- ☐ read an article about proverbs.
- ☐ write an article about a favorite proverb.