

GREETINGS IN DIFFERENT CULTURES

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Abstract: The purpose of greetings is to establish a friendly and respectful interaction with others. Greetings serve several important functions: Social lubricant: Greetings help to break the ice and set a positive tone for the conversation. They create a sense of warmth and openness, making it easier to connect with others. Show respect: Greetings are a sign of respect for the other person. By acknowledging their presence and initiating contact with a polite greeting, you show that you value their presence and are interested in engaging with them. Establish rapport: Greetings help to establish rapport and build relationships with others. They create a sense of connection and mutual understanding, setting the stage for further communication and interaction. Cultural norms: Greetings are an important part of cultural norms and etiquette. Different cultures have their own customs and traditions when it comes to greetings, so using the appropriate greeting in a particular context shows that you are aware and respectful of cultural differences.

Key words: cultural norms, respect, conversation, interaction, communication, relationship, contact, tradition, social norms, recognition.

Introduction: Yes, greetings are indeed important as they serve as the initial point of contact in social interactions. Greetings help to establish rapport, show respect, and create a positive atmosphere between individuals. They can also set the tone for the rest of the conversation or interaction. By using appropriate greetings based on cultural norms and customs, we can show our appreciation for others and foster good relationships. A greeting is a way of acknowledging someone when you meet them or start a conversation. It is a polite and friendly way to make contact with another person, often by saying hello or asking how they are doing. Greetings can vary depending on the culture and context, but they are generally used as a way to show respect and establish a connection with others. Greetings play a significant role in culture as they reflect the values, traditions, and social norms of a particular society. Here are some reasons why greetings are important in culture:

1. **Respect and Courtesy:** Greetings are a way to show respect and courtesy towards others. By using appropriate greetings, individuals demonstrate their acknowledgment and recognition of the other person's presence.
2. **Establishing Relationships:** Greetings help in establishing and maintaining relationships. They create a sense of connection and warmth between individuals, fostering a positive and friendly atmosphere.
3. **Cultural Identity:** Different cultures have unique forms of greetings that reflect their values and traditions. By using culturally appropriate greetings, individuals can show their understanding and appreciation of the cultural practices of others.

4. Social Etiquette: Greetings are an essential part of social etiquette. They help in setting the tone for interactions, conveying politeness, and facilitating smooth communication between people.

5. Inclusivity: Greetings can also promote inclusivity by acknowledging and welcoming individuals from diverse backgrounds. Using inclusive greetings can help create a sense of belonging and acceptance within a community.

6. Non-verbal Communication: Greetings are a form of non-verbal communication that conveys messages such as friendliness, respect, and sincerity. They can help in building trust and rapport with others.

7. Tradition and Ritual: In many cultures, greetings are deeply rooted in tradition and rituals. They are often associated with specific occasions, ceremonies, or social gatherings, adding meaning and significance to the interaction.

This are examples to greetings in different cultures:

1. In Japan, people often bow as a form of greeting. The depth of the bow can vary depending on the level of formality or respect being shown.

2. In India, it is common to greet someone with a "Namaste," which involves placing your hands together in front of your chest and bowing slightly.

3. In France, people commonly greet each other with a kiss on the cheek, known as "la bise." The number of kisses can vary depending on the region.

4. In Russia, people greet each other with a firm handshake and maintain eye contact. It is also common to say "Zdravstvuyte" (hello) or "Privet" (hi).

5. In China, a common greeting is "Ni hao," which means "hello." People may also nod or bow slightly as a sign of respect.

6. In the Middle East, it is common to greet someone with a warm handshake and a kiss on each cheek. In some cultures, such as in Saudi Arabia, men may greet each other with a nose-to-nose touching gesture called "nose-kissing."

7. In Maori culture in New Zealand, people often greet each other with a traditional nose press called a "hongi," which signifies the sharing of breath.

8. In Thailand, people greet each other with a "wai," which involves pressing your palms together in front of your chest and bowing slightly.

9. In Spain, people commonly greet each other with a kiss on each cheek, known as "dos besos" or "beso-beso." This is a common greeting among friends and family members.

10. In South Korea, people often bow as a sign of respect when greeting someone. The depth of the bow can vary depending on the age and social status of the person being greeted.

11. In Italy, people commonly greet each other with a kiss on both cheeks, known as "un bacio sulla guancia." This is a common greeting among friends and family members.

12. In Brazil, people often greet each other with a hug and a kiss on the cheek. It is common for people to greet each other with warmth and affection.

13. In Turkey, people often greet each other with a handshake and a kiss on both cheeks. This is a common greeting among friends and family members.

14. In Nigeria, people often greet each other with a handshake and a warm smile. It is common to ask about each other's well-being and engage in small talk before getting to the main conversation.

15. In Australia, people often greet each other with a casual "G'day" or "Hello." Handshakes are also common, but hugs are more reserved for close friends and family members.

Overall, greetings serve as a bridge between individuals, facilitating social interactions, promoting cultural understanding, and enriching the fabric of society. By valuing and practicing appropriate greetings, we can contribute to building harmonious relationships and fostering a sense of unity within diverse cultural contexts.

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