



CUSTOMS & TRADITIONS

ESLDO - Unit 3



What is a Custom?

A custom is traditional and widely accepted way of behaving in a particular society, or doing something that is specific to a particular place, or culture.



Examples of Canadian Customs

- Shake hands with everyone at the meeting upon arrival and departure.
- Gifts are usually opened when received.
- When at a restaurant, Canadians wait to be shown to their seats.
- It is considered rude to point at other people



What is a Tradition?

A tradition is very similar to a custom. A tradition is a practice that started many generations earlier. It can include holiday celebrations, weddings, methods of selecting a spouse and funeral grieving.



Why is it important to learn about cultural customs and traditions?

- ❖ Having a basic understanding of a certain culture can increase your culture sensitivity.
- ❖ It can help you avoid misunderstanding and embarrassment. This is a valuable skill not only in the workplace but also in daily life.



Why is it important to learn about cultural customs and traditions?

- ❖ Learning other cultures can broaden your horizons. It is a good way to absorb new information, and view things from different perspectives.
- ❖ You probably will become more open-minded. When you make an effort to understand others, you will find it easier to respect and accept their differences.



Cultural Diversity

With approximately 190 countries and 7 billion people on earth, it is not hard to imagine that many diverse cultures exist.

Multicultural countries, like Canada, allow you to assimilate (or adapt) easily, while keeping your distinct identity. As you experience different cultures, make sure to hold onto your own culture and introduce good aspects of your culture to others. Be sure to be accepting the positives of new cultures as well.

Cultural Diversity

We need to acknowledge and celebrate cultural diversity. The world has so much to offer, and has so many unique and interesting countries. It is important to let the people of these countries have a voice in the community so they can maintain their cultural heritage and identity.

