

2.37 Lesson 7A, Exercise 3

beckon
bow
hug
kiss
nod
point
wave
wink
give a thumbs up
fold your arms
cross your legs
cross your arms
hold hands
shake hands
shake your head
pat somebody on the back
pat somebody on the head
shrug your shoulders

2.38 Lesson 7A, Exercises 4 and 5

Akiko, from Japan

Akiko I think that Japanese people are usually very modest and friendly. One of the other nice things about Japanese people is that we're very polite – and we expect other people to be polite, too. When you meet someone, you should bow to them, even if you know them quite well. When you greet a woman, you certainly shouldn't kiss her on the cheek, like they do in some western countries. In lots of countries people beckon with their fingers when they want to ask someone to come to them. This is not the way we do it in Japan, though, and it is considered rude. We wave our hands back and forward with our fingers pointing to the floor.

Marco, from Italy

Marco I think that Italian people are very warm – I always say that it's the sunny Mediterranean weather that makes us like that. I think we can be quite talkative and we're generally not shy. When Italians meet for the first time, they usually shake hands. We also look directly at each other when we meet somebody. Eye contact is important, and you should smile. Once you get to know someone quite well, you can kiss them – usually two kisses on the cheeks, starting with the left cheek. Men

don't always kiss each other. They sometimes shake hands and often pat each other on the back or the arm instead.

Abdullah, from Saudi Arabia

Abdullah Greetings are very important and generally quite formal in Saudi Arabia. Men shake hands every time they meet, and sometimes when they say goodbye, too. This happens wherever the meeting takes place – in the street, at work, at home. I think it is respectful. If men know each other well, they often kiss each other on the cheeks, usually once on each cheek, but sometimes three or four times. We also say a number of fixed greetings and responses and this can take quite a long time, which surprises many foreigners. And a man must never touch a woman in public – that is completely unacceptable, even if he has been introduced to her.

2.39 Lesson 7B, Exercise 1

Table manners around the world: Peru

You needn't worry because most of the table manners in Peru are the same as in Europe, but ...

- you mustn't put your hands under the table. Keep them on the table.
- you must wait until everyone has a drink before drinking.
- you must say 'buen provecho' when you leave or join the table. It means 'Enjoy your meal!'

2.40 Lesson 7C, Exercise 3

Has Christmas become too commercial? Tell us what you think!

Joanna, Glasgow, Scotland

Joanna For most people in Britain nowadays, gift-giving, parties and entertainment are more important at Christmas than religion. You can see adverts for Christmas presents on TV and in shops in October, and people feel under pressure to spend lots of money. Some shops are even open on Christmas Day and most people don't go to church. Christmas has lost its true meaning.

Mandy, Oxford, England

Mandy You never hear a child complain that Christmas starts too early! Yes, it may be very commercial, but you can give Christmas whatever meaning you like. I think it's up to each individual or family to decide when to begin the celebrations and how much money to spend on presents, cards, food, etc.

Liz, Bangor, Wales

Liz It is true that for many Britons, Christmas doesn't have the same religious meaning as it did in the past. But does that really matter? Families still get together and everyone still has a great time, especially the children.

Thomas, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Thomas My dad owns a small gift and toy shop. He makes more money in November and December than in all the other months of the year together. Christmas needs to start as early as possible for him. He needs time to attract customers and get them to spend money. It's also good for the customers because they can spread the cost of Christmas over two or three months.

Nathan, Plymouth, England

Nathan Christmas starts much too soon in the UK. Shops should wait until after Halloween and Bonfire Night before they put up decorations and start selling Christmas puddings. I'm bored with Christmas by the 25th of December! And then as soon as Christmas is over, shops start selling Easter gifts – even before the New Year!

3.02 Lesson 7C, Exercises 5 and 6

Craig My sisters and I wanted to get my mum and dad something really nice for their 20th wedding anniversary. We thought about jewellery, chocolates, DVDs – but we couldn't find anything, you know, special. Finally, my oldest sister had a brilliant idea. We bought them tickets for a show in London – a musical – and we kept it a surprise for Mum and Dad. They really loved it. This was about four years ago now, but they still talk about it!

Vicky I remember, it was one Christmas ... about five or six years ago. The whole family was there, and I opened a present from my Aunt Victoria. It was a book. Everybody was looking at me, asking me what it was, so I read the title out: *The Big Book of Jokes*. So my dad said, 'Well, let's hear some jokes then! Read them out, Vicky!' It was so embarrassing! I sat there, reading out the worst jokes you can imagine. Nobody laughed. I wanted to stop, but my dad kept saying 'Try another one!' It was horrible!

Harry I was about five years old, I suppose. And I was a really huge Batman fan. I loved him! I wanted to be him. For my birthday that year, I got a Batman costume. I couldn't believe it! I put it on straight away, and I didn't take it off! I think I wore that Batman costume every day for six weeks – at home, in town, at the shops. A few weeks later, I lost interest in Batman – I never really wore the costume again. But still, it's a present that's really stayed in my mind.

Beth A couple of years ago, I went out to buy a present for my mum – for Mothers' Day. I went to a department store and, as I walked through the door, a woman asked me to try lots of perfumes. I liked one of them a lot, but it was quite expensive. I didn't have enough money to buy the perfume and a present for my mum. So I had an idea. I bought the perfume as a present for my mum! The trouble is, my mum can't wear perfume – she's allergic to it. But I forgot that. Until after I gave it to her! She was OK about it – she said it didn't matter. But I felt really bad.

3.03 Lesson 7D, Exercise 2

- 1 If you open an umbrella indoors, it'll bring bad luck.
- 2 If you see two magpies, you'll be lucky.
- 3 If the sky is red in the evening, the weather will be good the next day.
- 4 Something bad will happen to you if you walk under a ladder.
- 5 You'll have a male visitor if you drop a knife (and a female visitor if it's a fork).

3.04 Lesson 7D, Exercise 5

- 1 If you get out of the bed on the right side, your day will start well.
- 2 If you don't eat meat on the first day of the Chinese year, you'll have a long and happy life.
- 3 If an unmarried girl steps on a cat's tail, she won't find a husband in the next year.
- 4 If you put a pair of shoes on a table, it'll bring bad luck.
- 5 If you give your boyfriend or girlfriend a pair of shoes, he or she will leave you.
- 6 If you look in a broken mirror, you'll have bad luck.

3.05 Lesson 7E, Exercise 2

April Fool!

Do you celebrate April Fool's Day? On 1st April, people in Britain like to play jokes on each other. If someone can trick another person before midday, then they can call them an 'April Fool'. The tradition probably began in France in the 16th century when the calendars changed and ten days disappeared from the year 1582.

This annual tradition is repeated in different countries and cultures around the world, but not always on the same date, and with different kinds of joke:

- In France, the tradition is called 'Poisson d'Avril' or 'April Fish'. You have to try to pin a paper fish on another person's back without the person noticing.
- In Spanish-speaking countries, people play tricks on the 28th of December – the Day of the Holy Innocents – to celebrate childhood.
- The Portuguese celebrate April Fool's Day on the Sunday and Monday before Lent. The custom there is to throw flour at each other.
- In Belgium, children have to try to lock their parents or teachers out of the house or school.

TV stations, radio stations and businesses around the world try to trick people with false stories. Some stories have become famous. On 1st April 1998, Burger King advertised its new 'hamburger for left-handed people'. Many people went into restaurants to buy them. In Cologne, Germany, a radio station asked people not to run faster than 10 km/h in the city park, so that they wouldn't upset the squirrels.

On British television, the BBC has played tricks on people for decades. In 1957, a news programme reported that people grew spaghetti in Italy. It showed a film of people picking long strings of spaghetti from trees. More recently, a BBC nature documentary reported that there were penguins in Antarctica that could fly. It showed a film of the birds flying to the Amazon rainforest to enjoy some sunshine.

3.06 Lesson 7E, Exercise 9

Superstition

Stevie Wonder

Very superstitious, writing's on the wall,
Very superstitious, ladder's 'bout to fall,
Thirteen-month-old baby, broke the lookin' glass
Seven years of bad luck, the good things in your past.

[Chorus]

When you believe in things that you don't understand,
Then you suffer,
Superstition ain't the way.

Ooh, very superstitious, wash your face and hands,
Rid me of the problem, do all that you can,
Keep me in a daydream, keep me goin' strong,
You don't wanna save me, sad is my song.

[Chorus]

Very superstitious, nothin' more to say,
Very superstitious, the devil's on his way,
Thirteen-month-old baby, broke the lookin' glass,
Seven years of bad luck, good things in your past.

[Chorus]

3.07 Lesson 7F, Exercise 2

Information officer Good morning. Can I help you?

Lucy Yes, we're visiting Bath for a couple of days and we were wondering what to see.

IO I can certainly help you with that. Here's a leaflet. I think you should visit the Roman Baths. They're 2,000 years old.

Lucy Are they nearby?

IO Yes, just 100 metres from here.

Lucy What else can you recommend?

IO If you take an open-top bus tour of the city, you'll see all the major sights.

Lucy That sounds fun. Are there any festivals or carnivals on at the moment?

IO No, I'm afraid not. What else are you interested in?

Lucy We'd like to do some shopping.

IO You ought to go to SouthGate, the main shopping centre.

Lucy OK. Thanks. Where do we catch the sightseeing bus?

IO The bus stop is marked here on the map. You needn't buy a ticket in advance. You can just get on.

Lucy Great. Thanks very much.

3.08 Lesson 7F, Exercises 4 and 5

Information officer Good afternoon. Can I help you?

Woman Yes, we'd like some information about the city.

IO Certainly, what would you like to know?

Woman Pardon? I'm a little hard of hearing. Could you speak up a bit?

Man He says, "What would we like to know?" dear.

Woman Well, my husband and I are here for a few days. What do you recommend we see?

IO Well, there's the castle of course, and two or three beautiful churches.

Woman How much does it cost to get into the castle?

IO I think it's £10.

Woman That's rather a lot.

IO There may be a reduction for senior citizens. This leaflet here has all the information.

Woman Thank you. What about art galleries?

IO There's a museum of modern art.

Woman I'm sorry, could you repeat that?

IO There's a museum of modern art.

Woman Oh, no, we don't like modern art, do we, Geoffrey?

Man No, dear. You don't.

Woman What was that, Geoffrey? Speak clearly. Now, can you recommend a good restaurant that serves local food? Nothing too expensive, mind.

IO Well, there are a number of good restaurants in Kings Road.

Woman Can you show me where that is on the map?

IO Yes, we are here ... and Kings Road is here. I think you should probably get a bus or a taxi.

Woman Oh, no, we'll drive.

IO Cars aren't allowed in the city centre, I'm afraid.

Woman What did he say, Geoffrey?

Man Cars aren't allowed in the city centre.

Woman That's ridiculous.

Man It's quite a long way. Where can we get a taxi from?

Woman We're not wasting money on taxis, Geoffrey! And I refuse to use public transport. We'll just have to eat at the hotel.

3.09 Get Ready for your Exam 4, Speaking, Exercise 4

Turn on the phone by pressing this button. To send a message, touch the 'messages' icon, then scroll down the list of contacts and select the one you want. Then key in your message and touch the 'send' button.

3.10 Get Ready for your Exam 4, Listening, Exercise 7

Presenter Welcome to Food Diary. We are discussing the nation's favourite dishes and this week we talk to five of the best chefs working in Britain today. We ask them what their favourite British meal is.

- 1 I grew up in a seaside village in Wales. Every Friday I went to the fish and chip shop after school and bought some to take home for everybody. The fish was so fresh and the batter round the fish was light and delicious. So were the chips. It's a meal I now make in my fish restaurant and people like it so much that they sometimes queue right out of the door to get it!
- 2 My favourite dish when I was young was my mother's steak and kidney pudding. It's basically a pie with meat and onion in it. My mum made the best steak and kidney pudding ever, but I try to make the second-best one. I use the very best meat. You can follow my special recipe in my latest cookbook.
- 3 In my television programme I show you how to make my favourite British dish – fresh fruit trifle. I loved it as a child. We had it every Christmas and on birthdays in our family. You can use any fruit. But the secret is to leave the cake pieces in sherry for a long time, and use lots of fresh cream.
- 4 My parents are Italian, so I always ate wonderful Italian food at home. But the British dish I remember is fish pie. I used to eat it at my friend's house. I loved the mashed potato and cheese on the top, and the different pieces of fish and vegetables underneath. It's so good you can have it at my Italian restaurant.
- 5 I think the most famous British dish is a full English breakfast. We ate this at home on Sundays. My aunt and uncle came round to our house to make it. They brought wonderful bacon and sausages from their farm. I loved the fried tomatoes and mushrooms. You can

have a full English breakfast every day until midday at my London hotel.

3.11 Get Ready for your Exam 4, Speaking, Exercise 11

I'd rather go to the restaurant in picture one with my friends because it seems less formal. The waiter looks friendly and he is wearing casual clothes. There are some young people in the restaurant, so it's probably quite relaxed. I think it serves Italian food – pasta and pizza. My friends love Italian food, so, in my opinion, they will enjoy having a meal there.

I wouldn't like to go to the restaurant in picture two because it looks more formal and it is probably more expensive. I'm not very keen on formal restaurants. The people look very elegant. The waiter is wearing a white shirt and a tie and the tables are neatly laid. So it's definitely not a place for a group of students.