Culture and traditions ESL lesson plan (A2)

A2 (elementary) · 60 minutes · for English teachers · englishcue.app

Stage	Time
Warm-up	5–10 min
Vocabulary	15 min
Controlled practice	10 min
Grammar focus	10 min
Speaking	15 min
Wrap-up and homework	5 min

1. Warm-up (5–10 min)

- What is your country famous for?
- What do people eat at a celebration?
- How do people say hello in your country?

2. Vocabulary (15 min)

Elicit each word before you give it, model the pronunciation, then check meaning with a quick question.

Word	Meaning	Example
culture	the customs, art and way of life of a group of people	I'm interested in Japanese culture.
tradition	something people have done in the same way for a long time	It's a tradition to eat grapes at midnight.
custom	a usual way of behaving in a society	Shaking hands is a common custom.
religion	a belief in a god or gods	What is the main religion in your country?
greet	to say hello to someone	In Spain, people greet each other with two kisses.
shake hands	to hold someone's hand and move it up and down when you meet	We shake hands at work.
bow	to bend your head or body forward to show respect	In Japan, people bow when they meet.
polite	behaving well and showing respect	It's polite to say thank you.
rude	not polite	It's rude to talk with your mouth full.
manners	ways of behaving that are considered polite	Table manners are different in every country.

Grammar focus (10 min): Should and shouldn't: advice

Nina is going to London for the first time. Her friend Josh lived there for two years. Josh: "You should take an umbrella. It rains a lot! And you shouldn't take taxis: they're very expensive." By the end of this lesson you can ask for advice and give advice with should.

Form	Pattern	Example
Should	should + base form	You should take an umbrella.
Shouldn't	shouldn't + base form	You shouldn't take taxis.
Asking	Should I...? · What should I...?	What should I see first?
Suggestions	Why don't you...? · You could...	Why don't you take the Tube?

Watch for: ~~You should to see a doctor.~~ → **You should see a doctor.**. No to after should.

Speaking (15 min): A guide for a new neighbour

A foreign family has just moved in next door. The learner prepares five things they should know to feel at home: one about greetings, one about food, one about time, one about noise and one free choice.

Useful language

- It's common to... / It's considered rude to...
- We tend to... / People usually...
- In my culture... whereas in...
- You're supposed to... / You're not supposed to...
- a custom · a habit · a belief · a superstition
- It dates back to...

Wrap-up and homework (5 min)

- Each learner says the three new words they will remember, and one sentence with each.
- Homework: write 80–120 words about culture and traditions using at least six words from the lesson and the grammar point.
- Self-study: the A2 culture and traditions vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

Culture and traditions (A2)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

costumes · accent · celebrate · tip · local · national · abroad · tourists

B. Complete the sentences

Use a word from the word bank. Then compare with a partner.

1. We _____ Independence Day in July.
2. Try the _____ food.
3. I lived _____ for two years.
4. The city is full of _____.
5. She has a Scottish _____.
6. Football is our _____ sport.
7. They wore _____ for the festival.
8. It's normal to leave a _____ in the US.

C. Talk with a partner

Ask and answer. Make notes of one interesting answer to report to the class.

1. What time do people usually have dinner?
2. What is a traditional song or dance?
3. What languages do people speak in your country?
4. What should a visitor see first?
5. What is a typical present from your country?

Write

Write 80–120 words about culture and traditions. Use six words from the lesson.

Answer key

B. Complete the sentences: 1 celebrate · 2 local · 3 abroad · 4 tourists · 5 accent · 6 national · 7 costumes · 8 tip