Culture and traditions ESL lesson plan (B1)

B1 (intermediate) · 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 custom from your country surprises visitors?
- What is polite in your culture that might be rude in another?
- Which tradition do young people no longer follow?

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 shock	a feeling of confusion when you live in a new culture	I had terrible culture shock in Tokyo.
stereotype	a fixed, often unfair idea about a group of people	It's a stereotype that the British are cold.
identity	who a person or group is	Language is part of our identity.
heritage	traditions and history passed from earlier generations	We must protect our cultural heritage.
etiquette	the rules of polite behavior	Business etiquette is very formal there.
taboo	something people avoid talking about or doing	Money is a taboo in some cultures.
belief	something you think is true	Their beliefs are very different from mine.
ancestor	a family member who lived long ago	My ancestors came from Ireland.
generation	all the people born at about the same time	The tradition passes from generation to generation.
immigrant	a person who comes to live in another country	My grandparents were immigrants.

Grammar focus (10 min): Articles with places, institutions and general ideas

Zoe tells her friend: “What a day! My grandad is in hospital. My brother had to stay at school late, and I went to the hospital after work to visit Grandad. Then I went to the school to pick up my brother.” By the end of this lesson you can use articles with places, institutions and general ideas.

Form	Pattern	Example
Institutions	school · work · hospital · prison · church · bed (main purpose)	He’s in hospital.
The building	the + institution as a building	I went to the hospital to visit him.
General ideas	no article	Life is short. People are friendly.
Geography	the rivers, seas, oceans, ranges, deserts · no article: countries, cities, lakes, mountains	the Thames, Lake Como, Spain, the USA

Watch for: ~~The life is beautiful.~~ → **Life is beautiful.**. General idea.

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 B1 culture and traditions vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

Culture and traditions (B1)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

adapt · offend · diverse · dates back to · misunderstandings · multicultural · fit in · handed down

B. Complete the sentences

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

1. The festival _____ the 12th century.
2. Toronto is very _____.
3. I didn't want to _____ anyone.
4. It took me a year to _____.
5. It's a very _____ city.
6. It's hard to _____ to a new culture.
7. The recipe was _____ from my grandmother.
8. Cultural _____ are common.

C. Talk with a partner

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

1. Tell me about a time you felt culture shock.
2. What should a foreigner never do at dinner in your country?
3. Is punctuality important where you live?
4. What stereotype about your country is true, and which is false?
5. What have you adopted from another culture?

Write

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

Answer key

B. Complete the sentences: 1 dates back to · 2 multicultural · 3 offend · 4 fit in · 5 diverse · 6 adapt · 7 handed down · 8 misunderstandings