

# Applied Outside-Class Interactions / Observations

After studying a unit in *Cultural Differences*, students would frequently tell us that they talked about the concepts with students in other classes, friends, and family members. Some of them would relate what they had discovered from these conversations with others in our class during group discussions. Thanks to the input our students brought to the classroom from interactions with those in their personal lives, we realized that students, in general, who are working on *Cultural Differences* could benefit from a structured approach to applying what they had learned in the text to the world outside the classroom. Thus, we developed these materials to provide students with structured opportunities to share and expand on the cross-cultural insights that they read about and discussed in the classroom.

At the end of each unit, we assign an after-class activity, in which students interview someone. For students studying English in an English-speaking country, this activity supplies them with a chance to engage in a conversation with someone from a culture that is different from their own. For students studying in their own country, the activity asks them to talk to someone who is a generation older than them, for example, a parent or grandparent. Whichever type of person they interview, the opportunity arises for students to see a cultural perspective that may be unexpected.

These activities can be stand-alone; in other words, the students may just conduct the interviews. On the other hand, they can involve an additional step of either sharing what they learned in groups or in a whole-class discussion, or preparing a written report on what they discovered.

Please note that these activities are photocopyable.  
They are also available free at [www.ProLinguaAssociates.com](http://www.ProLinguaAssociates.com)



## Outside-Class Activity for Unit 1

In paragraph 8, you answered some questions about norms in your culture, and you also discussed this topic with your classmates. For this activity, interview someone who is not your classmate. If possible, find someone who is a generation older than you and/or who is from a different culture.

### Directions:

- <sup>1)</sup> Ask the other person the questions in ¶ 8.
- <sup>2)</sup> After you have finished your interview, complete this “Interview Form”:

### *Interview Form*

1. What is the name of the person whom you interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. About how old do you think that person is? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is his / her nationality? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did you choose that person to interview? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you find out anything new, surprising, or interesting about what that person told you? Explain.



## Outside-Class Activity for Unit 2

For this activity, interview someone who is not your classmate. If possible, find someone who is a generation older than you and/or who is from a different culture.

### Directions:

- 1) Ask the person the questions on page 15.
- 2) After you have finished your interview, complete the “Interview Form” in the box below.

### *Interview Form*

1. What is the name of the person whom you interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. About how old do you think that person is? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is his / her nationality? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did you choose that person to interview? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you find out anything new, surprising, or interesting about what that person told you? Explain.



## Outside-Class Activity for Unit 3

For this activity, interview someone who is not your classmate. If possible, find someone who is a generation older than you and/or who is from a different culture.

### Directions:

- <sup>1)</sup> Ask the person the “Interview Questions” below. You can write down answers.
- <sup>2)</sup> After you have finished your interview, complete the “Interview Form” in the box below.

### *Interview Questions*

1. Do your parents still live near the same town that they were born in?
2. Let’s say that your closest friends, or your family members, decided to take a trip together, but you really didn’t want to go. However, if you don’t go, your friends (or family members) might exclude you in the future. Which would be worse for you: to be excluded from the group or to be forced to conform to the group and go on the trip?
3. Think about the things that are important to you. For example, it can be your ideas about politics, how you spend your free time, your religion, your major in school, your job, etc. Who influenced you to have those values?

### *Interview Form*

1. What is the name of the person whom you interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. About how old do you think that person is? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is his / her nationality? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did you choose that person to interview? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you find out anything new, surprising, or interesting about what that person told you? Explain.



## Outside-Class Activity for Unit 4

For this activity, interview someone who is not your classmate. If possible, find someone who is a generation older than you and/or who is from a different culture.

### Directions:

- 1) Ask the person the “Interview Questions” below. You can write down answers.
- 2) After you have finished your interview, complete the “Interview Form” in the box below.

### *Interview Questions*

1. Did your parents teach you that it was very important to obey your elders, respect traditions, and follow social norms? Can you give an example of how they taught you?
2. In general, do you think that you conform to social norms in your country, or do you often not conform very much? Can you give an example?
3. Let’s say that you notice someone who dresses differently from the others, has an unusual hairstyle, and eats unusual food for lunch. Would you think that this person is immature and unnatural, or would you admire (in other words, have a positive feeling about) the person?

### *Interview Form*

1. What is the name of the person whom you interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. About how old do you think that person is? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is his / her nationality? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did you choose that person to interview? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you find out anything new, surprising, or interesting about what that person told you? Explain.



## Outside-Class Activity for Unit 5

For this activity, interview someone who is not your classmate. If possible, find someone who is a generation older than you and/or who is from a different culture.

### Directions:

- 1) Ask the person the “Interview Questions” below. You can write down answers.
- 2) After you have finished your interview, complete the “Interview Form” in the box below.

### *Interview Questions*

1. When you visit big cities in your country, how safe do you feel? (Choose one.)
  - a) I feel very safe.
  - b) I sometimes don't feel safe.
  - c) I often don't feel safe.
2. When you were in high school, did your school have strict rules, for example, about the style of clothes and/or about hairstyles? Can you give examples?
3. Let's say that your company has five workers, and you are the best one. At your company, there is a worker who is very poor and has a sick child, but he doesn't work as well as you do. One day, your boss says that the company made a profit, so he will give all the workers a bonus. How should the boss distribute the bonus?
  - a) I should get more than the other workers.
  - b) We should all get an equal amount.
  - c) The poor worker with the sick child should get more.

### *Interview Form*

1. What is the name of the person whom you interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. About how old do you think that person is? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is his / her nationality? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did you choose that person to interview? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you find out anything new, surprising, or interesting about what that person told you? Explain.



## Outside-Class Activity for Unit 6

For this activity, interview someone who is not your classmate. If possible, find someone who is a generation older than you and/or who is from a different culture.

### Directions:

- 1) Ask the person the “Interview Questions” below. You can write down answers.
- 2) After you have finished your interview, complete the “Interview Form” below.

### *Interview Questions*

1. I'd like to talk about party skills. If you go to a party where you don't know many people, do you start conversations with them? If you do, how do you start a conversation?
2. Next, I'd like to ask you about compliments. Do you often, sometimes, or rarely, give compliments to other people?
3. What compliment did you recently give to someone?
4. If I say to you, “I like your shirt,” what would you say to me?

### *Interview Form*

1. What is the name of the person whom you interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. About how old do you think that person is? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is his / her nationality? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did you choose that person to interview? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you find out anything new, surprising, or interesting about what that person told you? Explain.



## Outside-Class Activity for Unit 7

For this activity, interview someone who is not your classmate. If possible, find someone who is a generation older than you and/or who is from a different culture.

Directions:

- 1) Ask the person the “Interview Questions” below. You can write down answers.
- 2) After you have finished your interview, complete the “Interview Form” below.

### *Interview Questions*

1. Imagine that you invite me to a party at your house. If I hesitate at first and then smile and say, “Yes, maybe I can come,” will you think that:
  - a) I will probably come to your party; or
  - b) I probably will not come to your party.
2. Imagine that you are making weekend plans with someone. Which do you prefer?
  - a) I prefer my friend to be very direct about what he or she wants to do even if it is something that I might not want to do.
  - b) I prefer my friend to be indirect about what he or she wants to do because that will make it easier to consider my opinion.
3. Imagine that you found someone whom you want to marry. However, your parents do not want you to marry that person. What do you think that your parents would say or do about your marriage plans, which they believe are a bad idea?
4. Can you tell me about a white lie that you told someone?

### *Interview Form*

1. What is the name of the person whom you interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. About how old do you think that person is? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is his / her nationality? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did you choose that person to interview? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you find out anything new, surprising, or interesting about what that person told you? Explain.



## Outside-Class Activity for Unit 8

For this activity, interview someone who is not your classmate. If possible, find someone who is a generation older than you and/or who is from a different culture.

Directions:

- 1) Ask the person the “Interview Questions” below. You can write down answers.
- 2) After you have finished your interview, complete the “Interview Form” below.

### *Interview Questions*

1. Let’s say that you and I are having a conversation. After about 5 minutes, you decide that you want to end the conversation. What would you do (or say) to let me know that our conversation must stop soon?
2. Let’s say that you asked me if I could help you clean your home next weekend. However, I don’t really want to help you. Which of these responses would you prefer from me?
  - a) I say, “No, I can’t help you.”
  - b) I look at you and just smile.
3. In school, do you enjoy doing group work or do you prefer teacher lectures? Explain.
4. Let’s say that I ask you to help me with an essay that I wrote. You read it and find some mistakes. What would you do?
  - a) You would tell me, “You have some mistakes here and here. Also, this part is not clear.”
  - b) You would tell me, “I think that you wrote a nice essay. Perhaps there are only a couple of mistakes.”

### *Interview Form*

1. What is the name of the person whom you interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. About how old do you think that person is? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is his / her nationality? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did you choose that person to interview? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you find out anything new, surprising, or interesting about what that person told you? Explain.



## Outside-Class Activity for Unit 9

For this activity, interview someone who is not your classmate. If possible, find someone who is a generation older than you and/or who is from a different culture.

### Directions:

- <sup>1)</sup> Ask the person the “Interview Question” below. You can write down answers.
- <sup>2)</sup> After you have finished your interview, complete the “Interview Form” on the next page.

### *Interview Question*

1. Imagine this situation: You found out from your friends at school that they get more spending money every week from their parents than you do. Because of this, you sometimes don't have enough money to go to movies and do other fun things with them, and this makes you angry. Later that day, you ask your father to give you more spending money. However, he responds by complaining about you. He says that you don't spend enough time at home with your family, and on top of that, you don't help your mother with work around the house. He also says that you should spend more time studying for exams than having fun with your friends, so he won't give you more money. This is upsetting to you because you feel it's important for you to spend time with your friends, but you need more money in order to do it.

### *How do you respond to your father?*

- \_\_\_ ◆ (Confrontation) I tell my father that I do not accept his idea at all and ask him to talk to other parents to find out how much money other young people are getting.
- \_\_\_ ◆ (Submission) I decide to spend more time at home in the future in order to make my father happy, and I don't talk to him anymore about increasing my spending money.
- \_\_\_ ◆ (Compromise) I promise to do more work at home if he will agree to increase my spending money.

*Interview Form*

1. What is the name of the person whom you interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. About how old do you think that person is? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is his / her nationality? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did you choose that person to interview? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you find out anything new, surprising, or interesting about what that person told you? Explain.



## Outside-Class Activity for Unit 10

For this activity, interview someone who is not your classmate. If possible, find someone who is a generation older than you and/or who is from a different culture.

### Directions:

- 1) Ask the person the “Interview Questions” below. You can write down answers.
- 2) After you have finished your interview, complete the “Interview Form” below.

### *Interview Questions*

1. Do you smile only when you feel happy, or are there other types of situations when you also smile?
2. Let’s say that we are having a conversation about a deep, complicated subject, and you ask me a question. I am silent for about five seconds. What would you think?
3. Imagine that you are invited to someone’s house, but you don’t know them very well. At the start of the dinner, the husband says, ““Please excuse this poorly-prepared meal. My wife is not a very good cook.” What would you think?

### *Interview Form*

1. What is the name of the person whom you interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. About how old do you think that person is? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is his / her nationality? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did you choose that person to interview? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you find out anything new, surprising, or interesting about what that person told you? Explain.



## Outside-Class Activity for Unit 11

For this activity, interview someone who is not your classmate. If possible, find someone who is a generation older than you and/or who is from a different culture.

### Directions:

- <sup>1)</sup> Ask the person the “Interview Questions” below. You can write down answers.
- <sup>2)</sup> After you have finished your interview, complete the “Interview Form” below.

### *Interview Questions*

1. Imagine that you are sitting at a table in a library, and you are reading a magazine. You look up from your magazine at the same time that a stranger sitting at another table looks up and catches your eye. The stranger smiles at you briefly. Why do you think that the stranger smiled at you?
2. Think about a test in which you did not do well. Tell us what the test was. Why did you not do well?
3. When students are successful in school, do you think the reason is usually because of hard work or ability? Give some examples.

### *Interview Form*

1. What is the name of the person whom you interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. About how old do you think that person is? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is his / her nationality? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did you choose that person to interview? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you find out anything new, surprising, or interesting about what that person told you? Explain.



## Outside-Class Activity for Unit 12

For this activity, interview someone who is not your classmate. If possible, find someone who is a generation older than you and/or who is from a different culture.

### Directions:

- <sup>1)</sup> Ask the person the “Interview Questions” below. You can write down answers.
- <sup>2)</sup> After you have finished your interview, complete the “Interview Form” on the next page.

### *Interview Questions*

1. Think of a nationality that is different from yours. What nationality is it? Next, imagine that some people from that other country are your neighbors, and they are noisy. What will you think about their behavior?
  - a) They are behaving that way because that is how people from that other culture behave.
  - b) They are behaving that way because it is just the nature of that specific group.
2. Now, imagine that some people from your own country are your neighbors, and they are noisy. What will you think about their behavior?
  - a) They are behaving that way because that is how people from my own culture behave.
  - b) They are behaving that way because it is just the nature of that specific group.
3. Think of a nationality that you know only a little about. What nationality is it? Next, imagine that someone is a clerk in a store. After you pay for something the clerk doesn't give you back enough change. What will you think?
  - a) People from that country are sometimes not honest.
  - b) That individual is not honest.

4. Now, imagine that the clerk in the store is the same nationality as you. After you pay for something, the clerk doesn't give you back enough change. What will you think?
  - a) People from my country are sometimes not honest.
  - b) That individual is not honest.

*Interview Form*

1. What is the name of the person whom you interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. About how old do you think that person is? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is his / her nationality? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did you choose that person to interview? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you find out anything new, surprising, or interesting about what that person told you? Explain.



## Outside-Class Activity for Unit 13

For this activity, interview someone who is not your classmate. If possible, find someone who is a generation older than you and/or who is from a different culture.

### Directions:

- <sup>1)</sup> Ask the person the “Interview Questions” below. You can write down answers.
- <sup>2)</sup> After you have finished your interview, complete the “Interview Form” on the next page.

### *Interview Questions*

1. Imagine that a young man moves far away from his hometown. One day, he murders someone. What would you imagine was the cause of the murder?
  - a) He didn't have family or friends nearby to help and support him.
  - b) He had a personality that caused him to murder.
2. Let's say that you are married and have a son and a daughter. Which relationship would be most important to you?
  - a) my spouse and me
  - b) my son and me
  - c) my daughter and me
  - d) my father and me
  - e) my mother and me
3. Would you like to marry someone from a different culture? Why or why not?
4. If you got married, would you prefer to be older, or younger, than your spouse?
5. Let's say that you are a teacher. You have a student named Jay, who has worked hard, comes to class every day, finished all his assignments on time, and asked you questions when he didn't understand. However, he failed his tests, so you don't think that he has the necessary skills to be successful in the next level. At the end of the term, what would you do? Please explain your answer.
  - a) I'd pass him.
  - b) I'd fail him.

*Interview Form*

1. What is the name of the person whom you interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. About how old do you think that person is? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is his / her nationality? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did you choose that person to interview? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you find out anything new, surprising, or interesting about what that person told you? Explain.



## Outside-Class Activity for Unit 14

For this activity, interview someone who is not your classmate. If possible, find someone who is a generation older than you and/or who is from a different culture.

### Directions:

- <sup>1)</sup> Ask the person the “Interview Questions” below. You can write down answers.
- <sup>2)</sup> After you have finished your interview, complete the “Interview Form” below.

### *Interview Questions*

1. Imagine that you are walking along a quiet, empty street in your country, and you see a stranger who is walking toward you. Will you smile at the stranger? (Choose one.)  
a) often      b) sometimes      c) rarely      d) never
2. What would you say “happiness” is? Choose one.  
a) Happiness is getting along with other people, being accepted by society and being cared for, and not being isolated.  
b) Happiness is doing what I want to do and not being limited by society; it’s also being rewarded for the hard work that I did.
3. Do you worry about whether you are happy with your life or not?

### *Interview Form*

1. What is the name of the person whom you interviewed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. About how old do you think that person is? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is his / her nationality? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did you choose that person to interview? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you find out anything new, surprising, or interesting about what that person told you? Explain.