

Behaving politely

When we visit others, there are certain rules of politeness we need to follow in order not to offend our hosts. The rules of politeness that apply in our culture may or may not be so important in another culture.

In this worksheet, you will explore what is considered polite behaviour in Australia and in Indonesia.

Exercises



1. What rules of polite behaviour do we usually follow when we receive formal guests or visitors in Australia?

2. What is considered polite behaviour in Australia and in Indonesia?

- Study the table which lists six different ways of behaving.
- Fill in the 'Australia' section by putting a tick in the appropriate column for each of the ways of behaving from a) to f).
- Read the 'Indonesia' section which has already been filled in for you.
- Compare both sections.
- Then answer the two questions below about Indonesia for each of the six ways of behaving.

Rules of politeness	Australia		Indonesia	
	Important	Less important	Important	Less important
a) Seek permission before visiting				✓
b) Take your shoes off at the front door			✓	
c) Say 'Thank you' when given food or a drink				✓
d) After you have been handed your drink or snack, wait for the host to say 'please eat / drink' before consuming it			✓	
e) Finish all your food if eating a meal				✓
f) If dropping by uninvited, do not stay longer than you need to			✓	

- What does the information in the table tell you about polite behaviour in Indonesia?
- What do you think each of these ways of behaving might mean for you if you were living in Indonesia?

a) _____

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b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

3. What is considered polite behaviour in Australia and in Indonesia?

a) Think about how you would feel if a visitor to your home did not follow some of the rules of politeness that you or your parents expect. If you were in Indonesia, how do you think your Indonesian host might feel if you did not follow their rules of politeness?

b) If you were in Indonesia and invited to someone's house, what strategies could you use to learn more about their rules of politeness?
