# Cultural Data Samples for RAG

## USA

* Idioms: "Break a leg" means good luck. May confuse cultures unfamiliar with figurative speech involving harm.
* Humor: Often sarcastic or exaggerated. May be misunderstood in more literal cultures.
* Gestures: Thumbs-up is positive, but offensive in some cultures.
* Communication Style: Direct and casual. Can appear rude to more formal cultures.
* Time Orientation: Punctuality is valued; lateness is seen as disrespectful.

## Japan

* Gestures: Avoid prolonged eye contact; it may be seen as disrespectful.
* Communication Style: Indirect and high-context. Directness can be rude.
* Greetings: Bowing is standard and shows respect.
* Humor: Wordplay and situational comedy are popular; sarcasm is rare.
* Silence: Valued in conversation; not awkward, but respectful.

## France

* Humor: Witty and philosophical. Slapstick may seem childish.
* Body Language: Shrug with eyebrows raised means indifference.
* Formality: Titles and formal address used until invited to be informal.
* Meals: Meals are social events; rushing is frowned upon.
* Gestures: The 'OK' sign (circle with fingers) may mean 'zero' or 'worthless'.

## India

* Head Gestures: A head wobble often means agreement or understanding.
* Hierarchy: Respect for elders is critical. Formal tone used in professional settings.
* Hospitality: Guests are treated with high honor.
* Religion: Deeply embedded in daily life; jokes may be offensive.
* Gestures: Using left hand to give items can be seen as disrespectful.

## Brazil

* Touch and Proximity: Physical touch is common in conversation.
* Humor: Playful teasing is common; formality may seem cold.
* Time Perception: Flexible. Being late is more socially acceptable.
* Gestures: The 'OK' sign is considered obscene.
* Personal Space: Close distance during interactions is normal.

## China

* Idioms: Chengyu are symbolic; literal translations often fail.
* Saving Face: Avoid public criticism or contradiction.
* Hierarchy: Age and position dictate behavior.
* Numbers: 8 is lucky; 4 is avoided (sounds like 'death').
* Gift Giving: Gifts are refused before acceptance out of politeness.

## Germany

* Communication: Precise and direct; vagueness is disliked.
* Humor: Understated and dry; sarcasm less common.
* Punctuality: Strictly valued; lateness is offensive.
* Formality: Use of titles is common in professional settings.
* Planning: Rules and structure are appreciated.

## South Korea

* Hierarchy: Seniority influences language and behavior.
* Gestures: Use both hands to give/receive items respectfully.
* Formality: Formality is standard in public or business.
* Education: Highly respected; educators hold high status.
* Group Harmony: Group needs take priority over individual opinions.

## Saudi Arabia

* Gender Norms: Inter-gender public interaction is limited.
* Religion: Dominates cultural norms; criticism is taboo.
* Hospitality: Guests are honored; coffee/tea is ceremonial.
* Dress Code: Modesty is expected, especially for women.
* Time Orientation: More flexible; social interaction can override schedules.

## Norway

* Communication: Honest and calm tone is preferred.
* Humor: Dry and self-deprecating humor is common.
* Personal Space: Highly valued; minimal physical contact.
* Formality: Low power distance; informality is common.
* Equality: Janteloven promotes humility and equality.