

(1)

India is one of the world’s largest countries. People in different parts of India eat different kinds of food. But there’s one custom they all share: eating with their hands.

In the south of India, rice is the most important dish. One common way to serve food is to put it on a large banana leaf instead of a plate. A pile of rice and several side dishes are placed on each person’s leaf. Diners then mix the side dishes with the rice and scoop up bites with the fingers of their right hand. Because southern India is near the sea, fish is also commonly eaten.

In the north of India, bread is more common. Each person is served a large, round piece of bread, and the dishes come in metal bowls and are shared. Diners rip off pieces of their bread and use them to scoop up bites of the dishes.

If you travel to India, eating might just be the best part of your trip. Don’t be afraid to take food with your hands; it is part of the experience!

- () 1. What is this passage mainly about?
(A) The importance of rice and bread in India.
(B) The eating customs in different parts of India.
(C) The weather in northern and southern India.
(D) The history of Indian foods.
- () 2. Which of the following statements is true about the south of India?
(A) Bread is more common than rice. (B) It is far from the sea.
(C) Side dishes are mixed with rice. (D) People there eat with chopsticks.
- () 3. According to the passage, what do people use to pick up food in the north of India?
(A) Bread. (B) Banana leaves. (C) Bowls. (D) Spoons.
- () 4. Which of the following proverbs best describes the writer’s attitude toward the eating customs in India?
(A) Where there is a will, there is a way. (B) All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.
(C) He that travels far knows much. (D) When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

(2)

Although Mahata and Kimi are pen pals, they have very different cultures. These are some differences they have learned about each other’s countries in their letters.



	Mahata’s Country	Kimi’s Country
Eating Habits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">eat with fork and spooncommon foods: noodles and rice, beef and pork	<ul style="list-style-type: none">eat with chopstickscommon foods: potatoes, bread, fish
Tipping*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">required in taxis and restaurants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">not required
Clothes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">shorts and jeans are not allowed in temples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">casual* clothes are not acceptable in public places, such as museums and churches
Smiling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">always shows agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">can sometimes be used to make fun of people or to show disagreement

- () 5. According to the passage, which of the following customs is similar in Mahata’s and Kimi’s countries?
(A) Eating habits. (B) Clothes. (C) Tipping. (D) Smiling.
- () 6.What is the purpose of this information?
(A) To show cultural differences.
(B) To sell a tour package.
(C) To explain the eating habits of two countries.
(D) To introduce two languages.

(3)

How did you celebrate your last birthday? Perhaps you gathered with some family and friends. They sang “Happy Birthday” and brought out a cake with burning candles for you. You made a wish, blew out the candles, and then opened gifts. If this sounds familiar, it’s because these birthday traditions are shared by people around the world. However, did you know that birthday parties go back thousands of years?

We can thank the ancient Greeks for many of today’s birthday party traditions. The ancient Greeks honored the moon goddess Artemis by baking round cakes to represent the full moon and putting candles on these cakes to make them glow. Smoke from the candles was believed to carry prayers to the gods up in the sky. This is where the modern custom of making a wish before blowing out the candles comes

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- from.
- At first, the ancient Greeks only celebrated the “births” of gods and goddesses. Later, they also celebrated the birthdays of kings and queens. Then, in ancient Rome, men started to celebrate their 50th birthday with a special cake. Unfortunately, however, women’s birthdays weren’t celebrated until over 1,000 years later.
- () 7. What’s the best title for this passage?
- (A) Kings’ and Queens’ Birthdays. (B) A Modern Tradition with Ancient Origins.
- (C) The Invention of Birthday Candles. (D) The Origins of the “Happy Birthday” Song.
- () 8. According to the passage, why were birthday candles blown out in ancient times?
- (A) To celebrate the birthdays of gods. (B) To drive evil ghosts away.
- (C) To let people know the date of a birthday. (D) To send people’s prayers up to the gods.
- () 9. Which of the birthday traditions might **NOT** be related to ancient Greece?
- (A) Preparing a round cake. (B) Singing the song “Happy Birthday”.
- (C) Putting candles on the cake. (D) Making a wish before blowing out the candles.
- () 10. Whose birthdays started being celebrated the most recently?
- (A) Fifty-year-old men. (B) Queens. (C) Regular women. (D) Goddesses.

- (3)
- Scientists have discovered that men and women communicate (溝通) differently. They believe that this is the reason why many men and women have difficulties building close relationships.
- The main difference is that men and women have conversations (對話) for different purposes. For example, women often begin their conversations with questions to share their feelings or interact with others more, while men ask questions simply to get a clear answer. Here is an example of a couple who experienced communication problems. The woman wanted some coffee, so she asked her husband, “Would you like some coffee?” The man answered, “No, not right now,” and ended the conversation. Later, the man discovered that the woman seemed angry later. The man didn’t realize that the woman had expected him to ask her “How about you?” and discuss if it was time to take a coffee break.
- This example shows that men and women speak for different reasons and listen differently, and this

- often leads to fights. So, be careful when you have conversations with people of the opposite sex (異性), and be sure to figure out the main purpose of their words.
- () 11. What is the passage mainly about?
- (A) How to begin a conversation. (B) How to ask questions.
- (C) How men and women talk differently. (D) How coffee is made.
- () 12. According to the passage, women ask questions to _____.
- (A) start a conversation (B) get a direct answer
- (C) hide their feelings (D) start a fight with other people
- () 13. According to the example in the passage, the woman got angry because _____.
- (A) she did not want any coffee at all
- (B) she did not get a clear answer from the man
- (C) the man did not continue the conversation
- (D) the man did not reply to her question
- () 14. According to the passage, which of the following is **NOT** true?
- (A) Women expect to open a conversation by asking questions.
- (B) Men prefer to share their feelings by asking questions.
- (C) It is important to know the purpose of one’s words when you are having a conversation.
- (D) The differences between how men and women communicate can lead to fights.
- () 15. When we are talking to a person of the opposite sex, we need to know the reason why they speak so that _____.
- (A) they can listen differently (B) they will get angry later
- (C) we can give a clear answer (D) we will not have a fight

- (4)
- Have you ever wondered what makes you fall in love with someone? In fact, choosing a lover is not just about the face or thought. Some studies have discovered the explanation for our choices: smells. The human body gives off (散發) different odors based on different immune systems (免疫系統). One study shows that women are more attracted to men when their immune systems are less similar. That is to say, a person’s immune system has something to do with how he or she smells and who he or she attracts. In this study, a group of men were asked to wear a clean T-shirt for two days. Then a group of

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women were asked to smell the T-shirts and choose the shirts that attracted them the most. Surprisingly, most of the women chose the T-shirts of men with immune systems least similar to their own. Body odor is one of the most natural yet indirect causes of choosing someone as one’s girlfriend or boyfriend. Thus, if you need to check whether you and your love are “made for each other,” just have a smell, and you may find out the answer.

- () 16. What would be the best title for this passage?
- (A) “Smells Make the Best Lover” (B) “Face Decides Whom To Love”
- (C) “The Best Chance to Attract Lovers” (D) “Smells Help Your Immune System”
- () 17. This passage is about _____.
- (A) a love story (B) a scientific study
- (C) a new medicine (D) an explanation of beauty
- () 18. According to the second paragraph, a person's immune system has something to do with _____.
- (A) what clothes the person is wearing (B) what the person’s face looks like
- (C) how the person smells (D) how tall the person is
- () 19. If a woman is attracted to a man’s smell, her _____.
- (A) face and thought are the same as the man
- (B) choice has nothing to do with science
- (C) immune system is very similar to the man’s
- (D) immune system is very different from the man’s
- () 20. According to the passage, which of the following is true?
- (A) People love each other because they have similar immune systems.
- (B) Men and women with healthy immune systems fall in love easily.
- (C) The immune system doesn’t make human body give off odors.
- (D) You can tell if you and your lover are made for each other by smell.