

2. What is Culture?

I sit with several students in a café in Paris.

We have an international meeting. Americans, French, and Germans sit at a table and discuss.

The American asks, "**What does culture mean** in this country?"

I say, "That term can mean a lot. Literature, theatre, art, or even the way we speak, including **the way you conduct yourself.**"

"Does it also include **behavior**?" asks the American.

"Behavior in general terms, probably is a part of it," says the German.

"So that means when I behave I have culture," ask the American smiling.

"More or less," I reply. "But **education and manners** would also describe culture"

"Can one say in France as well that I have culture, and you do not?" asks the American.

"No, **that would be arrogant,**" I assert.