

UNIT 3

Social Customs and Traditions

I. Teaching Plan (2 Teaching Hours)

Procedures	Duration (mins)	Objectives	Key Points
Part A Lead in	10	To introduce some common social customs concerning greeting and dressing in the Western world through a video clip.	Draw students' attention to everyday customs and traditions and their importance in people's social life.
Part B Section 1	15	Social custom 1 — greeting habits	Greeting customs in the UK
Part B Section 2	10	Social custom 2 — dressing codes	Dress codes in the UK
Part C Section 1	15	Social custom 1 — greeting habits	Greeting customs in the US
Part C Section 2	10	Social custom 2 — dressing codes	Dress codes in the US
Part D Hands on	30	Fashion Show	Make sure students get the basic rules of dressing for different social events.

II. Instructional Design

PART A LEAD IN	
LEAD IN	Tasks / Activities: Video Watching
	Resources/ Equipment: a video clip from the movie <i>Four Weddings and a Funeral</i>
	Dos and Don'ts: The tutor introduces the topic in an entertaining way.
PART B FOCUS ON THE UK	
Section 1	Tasks / Activities: Fast Reading 1. The tutor should prepare some slips of paper with different topics written on; 2. Ask students to pick 3 slips randomly, make judgments on whether a certain topic is appropriate or not for small talks; 3. Students will have to make a brief conversation to illustrate his / her judgment.
	Resources/ Equipment: the textbook; slips of paper
	Dos and Don'ts: 1. Students should read the passage within a limited time period. 2. The tutor should draw students' special attention to topics that should be avoided in the UK for small talks. 3. Students will have to make model conversations on spot to exemplify their understanding of these proper small talk topics.
Section 2	Tasks / Activities: Fast Reading Instruct students to read the dressing codes for two major occasions: formal vs. smart casual in the UK.
	Resources/ Equipment: the textbook
	Dos and Don'ts: The tutor should first give students enough time to summarize the most important dress codes for different social events.
PART C FOCUS ON THE US	
Section 1	Tasks / Activities: Fast Reading & Brief Conversation Production 1. Ask students to read the text briefly; 2. Ask students to transform the text into conversations; 3. Ask students to make conversations in the following situations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two students meet on a domestic university campus. ● Two students meet in a small town in the US ● Two people meet on a zebra line in a big city in the US

PART C FOCUS ON THE US	
Section 1	Resources/ Equipment: the textbook
	Dos and Don'ts: Ask students to act out conversations in different situations.
Section 2	Tasks / Activities: Fast Reading Instruct students to read the dressing codes for two major occasions: formal vs. smart casual in the US
	Resources/ Equipment: the textbook
	Dos and Don'ts: Read the passage within a limited time span.
PART D HANDS ON	
HANDS ON	Tasks / Activities: Fashion Show 1. Ask students to work in groups to decide and design appropriate attire for two models from their group for an on-spot fashion show; 2. Students should make the attire with common materials like newspapers and magazines, etc. 3. Make sure that each student in a group plays his / her role in the fashion show so that he/she can have a real experience of how to dress up or how to dress somebody up for a certain occasion. 4. Each group will demonstrate their designed attire with one of the designers from the group explaining to the class how the attire fits the dress code accordingly; 5. The whole class will evaluate each group's performance on a performance board.
	Resources/ Equipment: the textbook; old newspapers, magazines, glues, and a performance board
	Dos and Don'ts: The tutor should set the rules for the activity and make sure students know the rules clearly and correctly beforehand.

III. Keys & References

PART A

Lead in

Directions: Please watch a video clip and discuss the following questions among your group.

1. Open.
2. It is a typical Western wedding. We can see the typical setting for weddings and the bride and groom.
3. Six. They are best friends and they are attending their best friend's wedding.
4. No, the way they prepared for the event revealed their different personalities.
5. Yes, there are a lot of social customs and rules under this occasion. For example, people should dress up for the wedding. The best man is responsible to keep the rings for the groom.
6. It depends on how close you are with the person. There are different rules for you to greet friends and strangers respectively. Usually the best man is one of the groom's best friends.

PART B

Focus on the UK

Section 1 Greeting Customs in the United Kingdom

►► TEXT A

EXERCISE



Directions: After reading Text A, please decide whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F).

1-5 FTFFT

Section 2 Dress Codes in the United Kingdom

►► TEXT B

EXERCISE



Directions: Each group read Text B and try to summarize the dress codes for men

and women in the UK into some basic rules to abide by under different occasions, namely formal and casual occasions. Check with another group to reach a consensus.

Formal Dress Codes in UK	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A formal dress code for men includes ties (regular or bow), collared shirts, jackets, slacks and formal shoes.2. Optional items for men's formal attire include cuff links, vests, cummerbunds, and watches.3. The colors of different outfit elements have to be appropriately matching to each other.4. A formal dress code for women includes dresses and skirts, or slacks and blouses.5. An outfit should be formal enough for the event but not absurdly formal.
Smart Casual Dress Codes in UK	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A clean, ironed shirt with a collar and a jacket are enough for tops under smart casual occasion.2. Smart casual trousers for men are either khakis or chinos in any color, especially black or tan. Jeans are not appropriate.3. Smart casual shoes for men are dress shoes, either brown, black or sometimes grey.4. Smart casual tops for women include blouses, stylish knit tops, nice sweater sets or sleeveless tops with a cardigan or jacket.5. Smart casual bottoms include khakis or black dress trousers, knee-length skirts and pantsuits.6. Shoes for smart casual occasions include dressy flats or mid to low heels.

PART C

Focus on the US

Section 1

Greeting Customs in the United States

►► TEXT C

EXERCISE 1



Directions: Please fill in each blank with a sentence to summarize each paragraph in Text C.

Paragraph 1: How people in the US greet strangers in small communities and how we should respond to the usual “How are you.”

Paragraph 2: Some norms for attention when you are introduced to Americans, especially the way in which we should address others.

Paragraph 3: The body language when people greet each other.

Paragraph 4: Some social customs you should abide by when you are invited to a dinner at somebody's home.

Section 2

Dress Codes in the United States

►► TEXT D

EXERCISE



Directions: Each group read Text D and try to summarize the dress codes for men

and women in the US into some basic rules to abide by under different occasions, namely formal and casual occasions. Check with another group to reach a consensus.

Business Formal Dress Codes in the US

1. Suit is the most appropriate and preferred business formal dress with a collared shirt, a matching necktie and formal leather shoes for men.
2. A matching belt or necktie and a good leather bag or a laptop bag is most convenient for business formal occasion.
3. Business formal dress code requires women to wear business suits, jackets or trousers with matching or contrasting blouses.
4. With short skirts, one must wear stockings underneath, and along with closed high-heeled sandals.
5. Women should wear limited jewelry, minimal makeup, mild perfume and matching handbags or purses.

Smart Casual Dress Codes in the US

1. Casual dress code for men includes jeans, T-shirts, trousers, khakis, and cotton shirts.
2. Self-hygiene is very important with the help of clean and well-ironed clothes and deodorant and mouth freshener.
3. Women can wear jeans, casual pants, shirts, T-shirts, blouses, trousers, dress, shorts, sweater sets, and blazers under casual occasions.
4. A complimenting bag and jewelry are necessary to complete a nice casual outfit.
5. Athletic running or walking shoes, sneakers, boots, flats and leather shoes are all fine under casual smart occasions for women.

PART D

Hands on

EXERCISE



Directions: Please prepare and finish an impromptu fashion show with newspaper and gadgets provided by your tutor as according to the following steps.

Step
1

The class will be divided into two parts. Groups of the first half will read the dress code summarized in Text B and groups of the second half will read the dress code in Text D.

Step
2

Two models will be picked from each group, one male and one female preferably. Other students in the group will be designers. Each group will prepare two different sets of attire for their two models, for formal and/or casual occasions.

Step
3

Dress the two models up according to the summarized dress codes within 20 minutes with newspaper, magazines and any other things you can access in the classroom.

Step
4

A glamorous fashion show will be held in class and one of the designers from each group will come up to the front and explain to the class their dressing ideas and especially how these ideas fit the dress code accordingly.

Step
5

An on-spot popular vote will be conducted and there will be one winning group for their ideas and performance.

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IV. Online Reading Materials

PART A Greeting Customs & Top 10 Weird Traditions in the UK

Section 1 Greeting Customs in the UK

Section 2 10 Very Strange British Traditions

Part B Greeting Customs & Top 10 Weird Traditions in the US

Section 1 Small Talk Topics

Section 2 10 Strange American Traditions