# United States

1, Snorting and Yelling

2, Touching or smiling at police officers

3, Do not make jokes about public safety

4, Using a person’s ancestry as part of a casual greeting

5, Intimidation

6, loud noise in court

7, Scolding children

8, Peeping on the privacy of others

9, Discrimination against people who are overweight or disabled.

The Americans are an idealistic and romantic people. They have a strong belief in the concept of freedom and equality, and enjoy a very non-restrictive lifestyle.

When meeting, they generally give a nod or a raised hand, sometimes also shaking hands. Americans also like to make gestures while they speak. Some of these gestures include pinching together the thumb and index finger, while extending the other three, to mean ‘Okay’ or ‘Yes’.

Americans are cheerful and generous, and even if they don’t know each other, they are bound to laugh. They love to dress up, but during working hours they are very serious. It’s best to give gifts to Americans at Christmas. You can also use ‘gift-giving’ to invite friends to dinner or to drink.

# Russia

1. Avoid using your left hand to hand things or engage in handshakes. In Russian culture, the left hand is considered to mean doing something illegally or hastily, so try to use your right hand.
2. Some Western hand gestures are considered rude, such as the ‘thumbs-up’ affirmative gesture, and the peace sign.
3. It is considered rude to show up for events empty handed
4. Pointing your finger at other people
5. Going ‘Dutch’ – do not expect to split the price of a meal, the host should pay. Similarly, many elements of chivalry are alive and well within Russia – the man should always pay.
6. Avoid making phone calls or disturbing others after 11pm.
7. When sending money, make sure it is wrapped in a nice envelope or some sort of casing, as it is considered insulting to just send money. Similarly, gifting an empty wallet is considered rude and as if to wish poverty on someone.
8. Do not offer someone a single cigarette, offer them the entire box.

# China

1. Pears should not be eating separately

2. Chopsticks should not be inserted into a meal.

3. 4 and 13 are considered very unlucky numbers. (Conversely, 8 is considered very lucky)

4. Do not write the name of a person with a red pen

5. Bed should not look in to the mirror

6. Knocking on a bowl of rice

7. Sending Clocks as a gift.

# Australia

1. Kissing cheeks is not a common greeting and may be looked upon by some as strange.
2. Bartering is not common practice in Australia – the price you see on the item is the price you are expected to pay.
3. Taking pictures of strangers is considered strange, especially taking pictures of children. This may result in accusations of pedophilia, so it is best to avoid. Some public places, such as Museums and Art Galleries, may even prohibit photography. Similarly, taking photos of strangers at the beach is considered especially strange and rude.
4. Shouting in a public place is considered rude and vulgar. It is also considered rude to speak on your phone loudly in places such as on public transport, or to play music loudly in such places.
5. On Public Transport, fare evasion is considered a serious crime. Whilst stations are not well guarded as one would expect in many other major cities around the world, Australian’s still obey the law and pay for their fares. Especially for foreigners, the punishments are very severe for those who do not pay their fare, including up to a lifetime ban on applications for Australian visas.
6. Animal abuse is a serious offence in Australia. There are many exotic animals found commonly on Australian streets, but the Australians coexist with them peacefully. Equally, be careful, as some Australian animals, such as Kangaroos, Snakes and Spiders, are incredibly deadly.
7. Conversational topics such as Politics, Income, Race, Marriage and Religion are considered rude and taboo.

# France

1. Gifts are a valued part of French culture, but some items are considered taboo. Some of these are knives, swords, scissors or gifts with distinctive advertising. It is also inappropriate for a male to give a female perfume in a general friendship. Finally, it is rude to not open the gift in front of the giver of the gift.
2. Never Ask a French person how much they make.
3. Never ask a French person about their political affiliation. However, they do enjoy engaging in political debate.
4. Always offer to serve others before eating and drinking for yourself.
5. French people often eat everything with a knife and fork – even Pizza and Hamburgers!

# Spanish

1. In Spain, someone always fulfils their contract, even if it results in negative results for themselves. They are not willing to publicly admit to their mistakes, however helping someone in good faith will win the respect and friendship of the Spaniards.
2. It is very common to be invited into someone’s home to share a meal with them, however it is usually just a polite gesture – accepting it is rude and implies a lack of education.
3. Whilst the Spanish are cheerful and warm, they also get excited easily, and public quarrels are also considered normal.
4. The Spanish are a very talkative people, and they often socialize quite late into the night. Restaurants usually do not open until 9 O’clock at night, and it is not until almost 11 that places become lively.
5. It is quite common in Spain for women to be the authoritative figure in a relationship.
6. 92% of Spaniards are devout Roman Catholics, so avoid offending the religion and avoid its taboos.
7. A woman going out in public without earrings can be compared to going out without clothes.
8. Flowers, Cakes and Chocolates make great gifts when invited to a dinner party, however avoid lilies and chrysanthemums, as they represent death.
9. Fans are commonly used by Spanish women, not to keep themselves cool, but as a form of communication. Some examples are: Throwing the fan = I hate you, To let it slide on the cheek = I want you, to let it slide on the eyes = Go away, Please.