

**Lesson 6: Cultural awareness**

Module : CCCA3

Instructor(s) : Up Anglais

By the end of the session, students should be able to;

- Recognize the importance of cultural awareness and its role in developing one's social intelligence.
- Discuss the consequences of poor cross-cultural awareness.
- Use idiomatic expressions.
- Use modals of deduction in the past.

**1. Read the text and answer the questions that follow.**

What is cultural awareness and why is it important? What is classed as normal behavior in one culture can sometimes be unsuitable, unacceptable, or even offensive in another. We're all different and we all have different beliefs and ways of doing things. Understanding this is what cultural awareness is all about. Cultural awareness can begin by holding up a mirror. We need to take a long, hard look at ourselves. What makes us the way we are? Well, there's history, religion, tradition, education, and our parents. These are all good things. But do any of them make us better than others? No. Not better, but different. It's easy to understand why we start off believing that our culture is better than any other. In fact, some argue that it's necessary in order to survive. As children, we typically build our view of the world from our family and the place we grow up. However, as we get older our understanding of the world grows with us. In the past, many people never left the comfort of their own town or district. They could all spend their days happily believing that the life they knew was the best that their way of doing things was the right way, and not imagining or caring what others might think. Today's world isn't like that though. We do business with people from different cultures, we sell each other products and ideas, we live next door to each other, we listen to

music from around the world and we learn different languages. We all need to learn to appreciate each other's cultures and ways of living.

**Questions:**

1. Can you think of any examples of behavior from another culture being 'unsuitable, unacceptable, or even offensive'?

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2. In your own words, what is cultural awareness?

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3. Why does the writer mention 'holding up a mirror'? What does he mean?

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4. The writer mentions 'history, religion, tradition, education, and our parents'. Which of these do you think is most important in forming our cultural identity?

.....  
.....

5. Where does our original view of culture come from?

.....

6. Which phrase is a synonym of "superior to?"

.....

**2. Match the words in bold to their meanings. Tick the points you agree with.**

**Living successfully with different cultures**

- We need to recognize and welcome cultural **diversity**.
- Cultural awareness begins with **self-awareness**.
- We shouldn't make **assumptions** about other people.
- It's wrong to make **judgments** about people until we understand their culture.
- We need **empathy** if we are going to understand the other person.
- Never forget that people new to living in your culture face **challenges** we can only imagine.
- You don't have to agree with the views of others, but always **respect** them.
- When we learn to **embrace** the differences between us, we can work well together.
- Keeping language simple helps prevent the **exclusion** of others.
- It's a mistake to try to **impose** one culture onto another.

- 1 beliefs based on little evidence \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 treat properly \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 an understanding gained by putting ourselves in the other's position \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 force; press \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 being different \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 welcome; show warmth towards; accept enthusiastically \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 difficulties \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 opinions \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 knowledge of yourself \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 not including; leaving something or someone on the outside \_\_\_\_\_

### **Grammar: deduction in the past**

- **Fill in the blanks using the appropriate past modal verb.**

1. I .....you the money. Why didn't you ask me (LEND)
2. Mr Travis hasn't come to work yet. He has never been late for work. He ..... the bus (MISS).
3. She knew everything about our plans. .... to our conversation (LISTEN)
4. Timmy is a very good boy. He isn't naughty, so he ..... that window. Somebody else ..... it (BREAK 2X)
5. The street is wet this morning. I'm not sure but it ..... RAINED last night (RAIN)
6. A : I talked to your science teacher yesterday.  
B : You ..... to her because she wasn't at school yesterday. (TALK)
7. Mrs White bought a new fur coat ! - She ..... the lottery (WIN).
8. She ..... very hard. She passed all her exams with excellent grades. (STUDY).

- **Read these sentences about the construction and only voyage of the Titanic ship. Which of the sentences contain errors in the use of past modals of deduction?**

- 1- It might have been very dangerous to work in the shipyard. Some men were killed during the building of the ship.
- 2 - There can't have been a big crowd present when the ship was finally launched.

- 3- The ship's owners must have been very proud to see the Titanic in the water for the first time.
- 4- The first passengers can't have been very excited to climb aboard the ship.
- 5- The Titanic could have been a very luxurious ship on the inside.
- 6- It must have been going very fast when it was near the iceberg.
- 7- The ship's lookout can't have seen the iceberg in time - and it was too late.