

# Unit 1

## Dining Culture

### Warm up

#### Foods from different cultures

As a group, discuss the following questions:

- Have you ever tried any foreign foods? Which ones?
- Have you encountered any interesting or strange foods?
- Is there anything in your country's food culture that foreigners find interesting?

## Conversation 1 People really slurp their noodles

### GET STARTED! 2

Listen to the statements about different food cultures and check the correct pictures.

1 Chicago hot dog



2 Finishing food in China



3 Eating spaghetti in Italy



### LISTEN AND PRACTICE 4

Yasuko is having lunch with her American friend, Charlotte, at a ramen restaurant in Tokyo. Listen to their conversation and practice with a partner.

**Yasuko:** Let's sit here at the bar, so we can watch the chefs prepare our noodles.

**Charlotte:** Sounds good. **It's interesting how people really slurp their noodles. Where I'm from, that's considered bad manners.**

**Yasuko:** Haha, I know. In Japan, slurping noodles shows that you are enjoying them and is a compliment to the chef.

**Charlotte:** Wow, I didn't know that. **Are there any other interesting facts about eating in Japan?**

**Yasuko:** Yes, a lot. Did you know that in Japan, we don't dip sushi rice in soy sauce like Americans?

**Charlotte:** Wow, really? **I hear that it's also rude to leave food on your plate. Is that true?**

**Yasuko:** Yes, eating everything shows that you really enjoyed the meal.

### YOUR OWN WORDS

Have you ever heard any interesting facts about dining in another culture? Use the language from the conversation above to share your fact(s) with the class.



### Culture Tip 4

#### Imitating locals

Sometimes it's difficult to understand what to do or how to act while you are in a different country. Try to "imitate locals." This means to look around and see how others are eating, paying for bills, and interacting with restaurant staff. If you have doubts, just do a little research online, and it can help you fit in more quickly.

## FOCUS ON LANGUAGE

### 1. It's interesting how people really slurp their noodles

*In pairs, read through the facts below and practice expressing them like the example. Then, try thinking of a couple of your own and share them with the class.*



It's interesting how people in Japan really slurp their noodles.

Country	Interesting fact
The Netherlands	wear their shoes inside their homes
India	eat food with their right hands
Thailand	eat insects like grasshoppers
France	use bread as a utensil like a fork or a spoon

### 2. Where I'm from, that's considered bad manners

*Take turns talking about the food culture from each person's country like the example below.*



#### Example:

Where I'm from, slurping your noodles is considered bad manners. You should eat quietly.

## FOCUS ON LANGUAGE

### 1. Making small talk

Read the example about small talk below first and then walk around the classroom and practice giving small talk greetings and responding.



Greeting	Response
How's it going?	Not bad.
Hi, how are you?	Fine, thanks.
How's your day going?	Pretty good.
Having a busy day?	Very well, thanks!
How's everything?	Great!
What's going on?	Hanging in there.

### 2. I'm not really used to servers making small talk

First, listen to the conversations and write down what each person is "not really used to doing." Then in small groups, talk about three things that you are not used to or not used to doing.



## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Project

### Communication, collaboration, and creativity

*In small groups, research a special food or dining practice that relates to a country's culture. Find out information like where it came from and when it started. Fill in the information below and create a presentation with a poster or some pictures, to share with the class.*

Country	
Food culture	
How the culture started	
When to eat the food or perform the practice	
How people make the food or perform the practice	



# Ellen DeGeneres

Ellen DeGeneres is one of the most admired people in American show business. She has enjoyed tremendous success since early on in her career when she started as a standup comedian. Now, she has already become one of the most famous talk show hosts in the world.

But people don't just like DeGeneres because she's funny; they like her because she's courageous. Despite warnings from TV executives and a potential career backlash, DeGeneres came out as openly gay on her hit sitcom *Ellen* in 1997. At the time, she was the first star of a sitcom to do so. Things were tough for her immediately afterward, but she bounced back and was eventually awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama in 2016 for being a passionate advocate for equality and fairness.

