

## Main points

Learn how to learn about culture!

Become aware of your cultural lens.

Use English as much as possible.

Prepare workshop assignments well.

When contemplating aspects of contemporary culture, ask why they exist and what is their special meaning.

Become aware when stereotypes are being formed.

Watch for examples of contemporary culture—people's  
1) **objects**,  
2) **behaviors**,  
3) **language**, &  
4) **beliefs** and their interrelations.

Remember steps to understanding contemporary culture: 1) **Open Attitude**, 2) **Understanding Identity**, 3) **Knowledge of Culture**, & 4) **Understanding Systems**

## Student comments

I thought culture meant only traditional culture. So I was surprised that cell phones and comic books are culture.

When comparing definitions, each of us wrote slightly different things. I guess what culture means to people is going to vary individually because of their background or the environment they grew up in.

When you said that everyone has their own culture (identity) I felt that I don't have to be like others. I should be confident about myself.

I strongly agree that we have a cultural lens. I've lived in Japan all my life, so I'm sometimes surprised at other countries' customs. I'm even surprised at some subcultures in Japan. But we should not exclude them from us, and we should try to understand each other.

We talked about personal identity, but I hadn't prepared much so I had difficulty. I decided not to miss my assignments again!

An English lady said, "All Japanese eat only fish, and they live to work while we work to live." I was very sorry because she didn't know about Japan well.

I was surprised that each family has its own culture but now I understand. Certainly, my family has its own culture. I want to know other families' culture.

I was surprised that there are differences between young people and old people that live in the same country. I think the culture that we know is only one aspect because we haven't thought about our own culture seriously.

When I saw the picture of the native woman who eats beaver, I thought it was yucky. But eating chicken or cattle might seem strange to her. I thought my cultural lens was narrow. I realized OA is important to study contemporary culture.

You told us you don't know everything about your country, Canada. I find, however, that not only don't I know about Japan, but also about my town, Nagoya.

I'll try not to judge people by their appearance or their cultural stereotypes. This class has been really informative for my life. ☺

There are a lot of things I don't know. We'll never be able to know everything about culture. I should keep in mind there will be a lot of things I never know.

