

9D – Review Answers



You try

Answers will vary

Imagine you are meeting someone from a western country for the first time. Make a list of five good topics for conversation and five topics to avoid.

Good topics

Family
Hobbies
Favorite music and movies
Food you both enjoy
Travel

Topics to avoid

Religion
Politics
Money
Appearance
Romantic Life



Can you help?

Answers will vary

Matt is a young man from London who has come to Japan to work for a year. He knows very little about Japan and can only speak a few words of Japanese. Give him advice about adjusting to life in Japan. Be sure to tell him about how to behave in formal and casual situations, how to avoid offending people accidentally and how to make friends.

Since Matt is a new visitor to Japan, he should be aware of the many cultural differences between the United Kingdom and Japan. Matt should try to be as polite as possible to everyone he meets and always observe what others around him are doing before acting. Matt should also do his best to try and learn how to say “please”, “thank you” and “hello” in Japanese, in order to show other people he is trying to adjust to his new country. Matt should also remember to never put his chopsticks straight up in a bowl of rice, blow his nose loudly in public or speak too loudly on the train or bus. If Matt follows these simple rules, he will soon make many good Japanese friends.

In the text, an American woman was offended when the Japanese person complimented her on her English. Which of the following compliments might also be considered offensive in America? Which would be OK?

1. You have a very long nose. *This compliment would be considered offensive.*
2. You are too thin. *This compliment would be considered insulting.*
3. You have lovely eyes. *This compliment would be considered OK.*
4. I like your smell. *This compliment would be considered too familiar.*
5. You are very clever. *This compliment would be considered OK.*
6. Your new haircut looks great. *This compliment would be considered OK.*
7. You must have many girlfriends. *This compliment may be too familiar.*



Making friends Answers will vary

In many foreign countries it is easy to make friends with people you meet at work, at social events, or simply by accident throughout your lifetime. Is it the same in your country? What is special about friendships in your country and how do people in your country make and keep friends?

I feel that many Japanese people make friends with people they have met in high school, university or the workplace. It is difficult for Japanese people to make friends with strangers they have no shared connection to, as this is not a normal thing to have happen in Japanese culture.