

Listening: The American way

1 Does your country have a tradition of showing hospitality to strangers? What other cultures do you know that are hospitable (friendly to visitors and ready to welcome them)?

2 **2.11** Do you think Americans are hospitable? Listen to two people describing their experiences. Do they agree with you?

3 Listen again. Are these statements true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 At first the woman enjoyed looking round American houses.
- 2 At first the woman thought that Americans are conceited (too proud of how good, clever or attractive you are).
- 3 The woman thinks that German people are more modest (not too proud of yourself or what you have) than Americans.
- 4 The man thinks British furniture is smaller than American furniture.
- 5 The man was surprised by the guests' behaviour at an American party.

Word focus: -ing and -ed adjectives

4 Compare these sentences. Then answer the questions.

- a *He was very interesting.*
- b *He was very interested.*

Interesting and *interested* are both objectives. Which one describes ...

- 1 how people feel?
- 2 a person or thing that causes the feeling?

5 Look at the information in the table and check your answers in exercise 4. Then think of more adjectives that can end in *-ing* or *-ed*.

-ing and -ed adjectives

Interesting describes a quality something has.

*It was an **interesting** visit.*

Interested describes a reaction to something else.

*I was **interested** in your presentation.*

Some other adjectives also have *-ed* and *-ing* forms. For example:

embarrassing (the quality) **embarrassed** (the reaction)

6 Complete these sentences. Add the correct ending to each adjective.

- 1 Travelling to other countries is always very interest_____.
- 2 I'm sometimes surpris_____ by different foreign customs.
- 3 English people talk about the weather a lot, but I think it's a bor_____ topic.
- 4 I'm always interest_____ to see how other people live.
- 5 I felt really excit_____ when I went on my first trip abroad.
- 6 You can get into some embarrass_____ situations if you don't learn about the customs of a country before you go there.

Reading: Travellers' tales

7 Read these travellers' stories. What did they find surprising, and why?

1 A strange thing happened to me when I was visiting Dallas, Texas. I got into an elevator and another man got in at the same time. I didn't know him so I was very surprised when he started talking to me and said, 'I really like your tie.' Why did he say something like that to a stranger?

2 I went to a meeting in Seoul in Korea. We made small talk before it began and chatted about the weather and my flight. Then Ms Kim asked, 'How old are you?' I was very surprised. Isn't it impolite to ask someone's age?

3 I visited our Tokyo office for a couple of days and the team took me out to a restaurant for a meal. Takahashi asked about my family so I told him that my wife is a professional musician. Our children can both play an instrument and I'm very proud of them. He told me he was married but he didn't say much about his wife. However, I later learned that his wife is a famous writer in Japan. Why didn't he tell me?

4 Many years ago we visited a client's home in Saudi Arabia. I admired a piece of artwork on the wall and he took it down and gave it to me. How generous! I was so surprised. Of course, I didn't want to take it but he insisted, so in the end I had to. But I'm worried because I think it cost a lot of money. Did I do the right thing?

