

# Types of Culture



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## What Is Culture?

Culture talks about who we are in a group. People in groups think in similar ways. They have similar attitudes. They have similar rules.

You grew up in a group of people. Those people taught you how to think about things. They taught you what was important. They gave you your culture.



Different groups do different things. They learn in different ways. Some people learn things when they see them in a picture. Other people learn things better when they read about them. You probably like to learn the way that people in your culture learn.

If you understand your culture, you can understand yourself better. You can understand other people better.

Some people divide cultures into two types: individual and group cultures. Those are extremes. Look at those two extremes in the table below. Check one side or the other. Which is most like you? Add the checks on each side. Do you come from a group or individual culture?

(Use a separate piece of paper with two columns.)



## CULTURAL WAYS

<b>Group Culture</b>	<b>Individual Culture</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>View of Time</b></p> 	
<p>It's OK to be late. People are more important than time. It's OK to change deadlines.</p>	<p>People should always be on time. Being late is disrespectful. It's important to meet deadlines.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>View of Authority</b></p> 	
<p>Respect authority. Don't ask questions until you know a lot about something. Look down to show respect for someone in authority.</p>	<p>Challenge authority. Ask questions all of the time. Look people in the eye if you want to be respected.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>View of Competition</b></p> 	
<p>Don't compete with others. You belong to a group. Don't stand out. Work as a team. Cooperate with others.</p>	<p>Competition is good. Competing makes you stronger. Don't worry about what others say.</p>

## View of Language



You don't need to talk much. You know what others think. You can read their body language. You know the rules. Too much talk is useless. Being quiet is respectful.

Talking is good. It explains things. Rules need to be written down and posted. Even language can be explained. It has rules. People respect you if you can explain things.

## View of Math



Math is something that is part of life. You don't have to explain math. You need to use it.

Math is made up of rules. If you understand the basic rules, you can create things.

## View of Solving Problems



Problems are part of life. Sometimes, you can see a solution without knowing all of the parts.

Problems need to be figured out. Break the problem apart and you can solve it.

## View of Family



A family is a group of relatives and friends. It is big. Everyone takes care of everyone else. Family is more important than the individual. Old people are good models for children.

A family is small. You are responsible only for very close relatives, like parents and kids. Old people often lose authority. It is good to become independent of family.

## View of Learning



It is good to see how things work or what they look like. Doing things is a good way to learn about them. Stories teach more than explanations.

It is good to be able to explain things. Reading about something is a good way to learn about it.

## View of Relationships



Relationships are important. They last a long time. A co-worker can become a good friend quickly.

Relationships change a lot. Co-workers are usually acquaintances. It takes a long time to become a friend.

## View of Activities



It's easy to do many things at once. It's OK to be interrupted.

It's best to focus on one thing at a time. Concentrate on the job. Interruptions are not good. People should not interrupt.

## View of Privacy and Space



People are more important than privacy. A home is a place to share. It's OK for people to sit close to each other in movies or classes.

Individual privacy is essential. A person's home is her castle. People shouldn't sit close to other people in public if they can help it.

## View of Borrowing and Lending



People share things. They borrow and lend easily.

Things belong to individuals. If you borrow, return right away. People shouldn't ask friends for loans.



**Read the description. Check one of the boxes for individual (I) or group (G) culture.**

[Keep track on a separate piece of paper.]

	I	G
<p>Example:  <b>Vera</b> wants her students to raise their hands and ask a lot of questions. (Vera shows an individual cultural attitude. She wants her students to compete and ask questions.)</p>	√	
<p>Example:  <b>Manuel's</b> grandmother died. He didn't show up at work and didn't call the boss. (Manuel shows a group culture attitude. His family is more important than his job schedule.)</p>		√
<b>The boss</b> expects people to clock in and out on time.		
<b>Jeremy</b> can't understand the teacher's explanation of fractions.		
<b>Sharon</b> is a strong executive. She travels a lot and has very few close friends.		
<b>Sarah and John</b> have people stop by their house at any time of the day. People are always coming in and out. They love it!		
Stay away from <b>Fred</b> when he is working. He hates interruptions.		
<b>Grandma Benalli</b> lives with her son, daughter, grandkids, niece, and sister.		
Jim's neighbor asked to borrow the lawnmower. <b>Jim</b> didn't like it. He said he could use it, but only for the afternoon.		
The teacher asked Nancy a question. <b>Nancy</b> didn't look up at the teacher. She looked down at her feet and mumbled an answer.		
<b>Mr. Kline</b> divides his students in two groups. He times their answers to questions. The highest score wins.		
<b>Cindy</b> is a weaver. She doesn't follow a pattern. She imagines the colors in her head and weaves them into her rug.		
<b>Brandon</b> can build anything. His cabinets are perfect. However, he doesn't know how to multiply fractions on paper.		

CLICK HERE TO OPEN THE ANSWER SHEET.

**Complete the sentences about yourself. Compare your answers to what others said. Talk about it. (No audio.)**

1. I like teachers who
2. When I need to learn something
3. Privacy is
4. A person's family is
5. Borrowing money or other things
6. Being on time
7. Senior citizens
8. Children should
9. I learn math by
10. My home is
11. I like bosses who
12. People in authority
13. In a restaurant, people should sit
14. If I don't understand something
15. Understanding grammar
16. A good friend is a person who