

FOODWAYS, GIFTS, AND HOLIDAYS

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Foodways



Cracked Eggs

Americans are mostly aware of salmonella hazards from eating cracked raw eggs.



Refusing Food

In many cultures, refusing other's food is interpreted as an insult.



Changing Food Habits

Muslim children avoid eating meat at schools because it may contain pork.



Offering Food

Tongans and Javanese will not accept food until it is offered at least three times.

Milk Intolerance

Some people refuse to consume dairy products due to physical limitations or food taboos.



Potluck

Communal gathering where each guest or group contributes a different, often homemade, dish of food to be shared.



What Makes a Meal?

In Nepal, if you haven't had the rice, you haven't eaten yet.



Food Taboos

- Muslims and Jews don't eat pork.
- Hindus don't eat beef.



Foodways

Utensils

- When eating with fingers, only use the right hand to touch the food.
- There are some rules when eating with chopsticks.



Cleaning Your Plate

- Clean plates means they want more for Cambodians.
- For Thais, leaving food means you are finished or it was delicious. For Indonesians, leaving food on the plate means the diner is impolite .



Making Eating Noises

Many Asians and Saudi Arabians make eating noises to show their appreciation of the food.

Boxes of Food

At Samoan weddings, if food is served in boxes, it should be taken home to be shared with the family.

Food and Politics

Politics in other countries may adversely affect personal relations and business practices.



Fast-Food Bags

Do not use words from sacred book on the food bags.

Food as Medicine

- Many people believe garlic and ginger are cure-alls.
- Jewish mothers and grandmothers have long been associated with chicken soup.



Hot/Cold

Whether a food is labeled hot or cold has nothing to do with actual temperature.



GIFTS



Yellow Flowers

Yellow flowers have negative connotation for Iranians, Peruvians, and Mexicans.



Funeral Flowers

Never send funeral flowers to an Asian place of business.



White Flowers

Chinese and most other Asian people respond negatively to white flowers because white has death connotations.



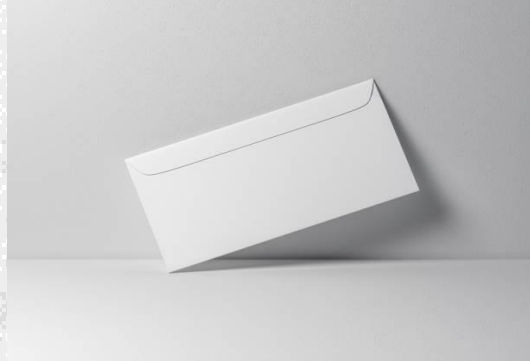
Bribery

Teachers must convince students that expensive gifts cannot be accepted and may be negatively interpreted.



Gift Taboos

- Avoid giving umbrellas, knives, scissors, and clocks as gifts.
- Avoid wrapping gifts for the Japanese in either black or white paper.



White Envelopes

If a Chinese or Vietnamese person gives you a white envelope on an occasion of death, accept it graciously, but do not open it in the presence of the donor.



Refusing a Gift

We are not obligated to accept gifts from someone who feels culturally obligated to offer the object to us.



Birthday Cake

We are not obligated to accept gifts from Many Middle Eastern are cautious about making themselves the cause of someone else's envy.

HOLIDAYS





Ramadan

Muslims fast from dawn to dusk for a month.



Thanksgiving

Celebrated on the 4th Thursday of November



Halloween

Some fundamentalist Christians do not approve of this holiday.



Jumping over Fires

It is held annually just before the start of Persian New Year.



New Year's Offering

Making offerings to ensure an auspicious new year is a common Asian practice.



First Foot

Many people believe that what occurs on New Year's Day foretells what lies ahead for the entire year.



Sweeping Away the Luck

Many Chinese avoid sweeping on New Year's Day.

REFERENCE

Dresser, N. (2005). *Multicultural manners: Essential rules of etiquette for the 21st century*. Hoboken, N.J: John Wiley & Sons.