

# YOUTUBE AS A MEANS OF DEVELOPING CULTURAL AWARENESS OF STUDENTS

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It is not easy to inspire and motivate the ESL students, but selecting unique engaging materials based on real language can facilitate this task to a great extent. No doubt that modern teenagers cannot imagine their life without the Internet, so teachers should use its resources to develop students' communicative competence. The effectiveness of communication depends not only on grammar and vocabulary but also on many other factors, such as communication culture, etiquette, and non-verbal forms of communication. Watching videos gives learners the possibility of hearing the language as well as seeing the speakers, perceiving the realities of their life. Therefore, YouTube has become a powerful resource in teaching English. Below is a lesson used in a Pre-intermediate level class studying table manners in foreign countries.

**Topic:** Chinese etiquette at dinner table

**Objectives:** To establish students' knowledge of how Chinese people behave during a business dinner in a restaurant

**Time:** 80 min

1. Lead-in. This section introduces the theme of the lesson. Students watch a short episode, trying to predict what the topic of the lesson is. Encourage them to use phrases for expressing opinion (I think ....., In my opinion ....., I believe ....., etc.). Show the topic of the lesson "WHEN IN ROME DO AS THE ROMANS DO" and ask them to explain what it means (for lower-level students give 3 definitions and ask them to find an appropriate explanation):
  - What you do is more important than what you say
  - Visiting another place, you should follow the customs of the people in that place
  - People who are similar spend time together

The following text with a gap-filling activity is a good introduction to the lesson.

*forge, for example, manifestations, chit-chat, common, social affair*

Business lunches are very ..... in many countries and cultures. Food itself is one of the most visible ..... of a culture and is something people are proud of and like to share with guests in their country. However, just as the food changes from culture to culture so does the etiquette surrounding the lunch. In some cultures, the business lunch is a time for ..... and building relationships, in others simply a fuel-stop at which people continue to talk about business, known as the "working lunch." In Asian countries, ....., the business lunch could last several hours. The initial business lunch is a ..... and business may never be discussed. This meeting should be used to ..... relationships and build trust.

[Retrieved from: <http://www.oliviersoumahmis.guru/the-business-lunch-and-cultural-differences-2/> lang=en/feed/&lang=en]

2. Before you watch. This section provides a task to prepare students to deal with the key vocabulary. The words in bold are used in the video. Ask your students to guess the meaning.
  - a. Usually people eat sushi with chopsticks.
  - b. The waiter gave me the menu with a smile.
  - c. The total bill was \$ 60, and we decided to split/share the bill equally, for \$ 20 each.
  - d. You can place an order for the books by phone or on our web-site.
  - e. Have you seen this handy little gadget - it's for separating the egg yolks from the whites.
  - f. It is rude to point at people with your finger.

**(Rude:** not polite waiter: a man who serves food and drinks at the tables in a restaurant;

**Chopsticks:** thin sticks that you use to eat food in many countries in Asia

**to place an order:** to ask for goods or meal to **split/share**

**the bill:** to divide the sum of money in the bill between all the people at the table

**it's really handy:** simple to use, convenient)

3. While you watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWw7P2N8Iao>

- a) Show the whole video. Ask the students to put the topics discussed in the video in the correct order:
  - WAIT FOR THE HOST TO START EATING (5)
  - BASIC CHOPSTICK ETIQUETTE (6)
  - WHERE TO SIT AT THE TABLE (1)
  - HOW TO CALL THE WAITER (2)
  - WHO PLACES THE ORDER (3)
  - MAKING A TOAST (4)
  - PAYING THE BILL (7)
- b) Show the first part of the video (0.00-2.20). Are the following statements true or false?
  - In China we usually eat in private area. (-)
  - The most important seat at the table is one that is furthest from the door. (+)
  - The host is the most important person at the table. (+) In England it is polite to call the waiter. (-)
  - In China you wave at the waiter when you are ready to order. (+)
- c) Show the second part of the video (2.22-4.20) and ask the questions below. Why is it handy to order in China? (Because of pictures on their menus) Who

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places the order in China? (If you are a host you are mostly responsible for ordering) Does the host order for everyone at the table or only for himself? (The host is ordering the full table for everyone at the table) Can someone else except the host place an order? (If the host is really bad at ordering, someone who is better at it can order) What is the word, meaning "cheers", used in China while making a toast? (Ganbei)

- d) Show the third part of the video (4.20-6.34) and ask to match the beginning of the sentences with the endings.

1. We are waiting for you to eat first	a. using it to your mouth
2. One pair of chopsticks is for	b. share the bill
3. Another pair of chopsticks is actually for	c. because you are the host
4. We never	d. bringing things to your bowl
5. Because this is your first time coming to China	e. we want to treat you

4. After you watch. This section practices vocabulary from the video. The students' task is to act out a dialogue in pairs. Two friends are talking about Chinese table manners.

### Student A

Ask about two pairs of chopsticks -

*They have/use....  
Why...?*

You are afraid to behave rude at the table. Ask what is considered rude -

*Is there....?  
What shouldn't I .....?*

Ask about paying the bill -

*Who .....?*

### Student B

Explain why the Chinese use two pairs of chopsticks -

*They use one pair for....  
Another is for .....*

Talk about some unacceptable things at the table (pointing with the chopstick at people, starting dinner without the host's permission)

*It is rude to ....  
You can't .....*

Explain who pays the bill in China (the host)

*They never ....*

For lower-level students the task may be different. Jumble sentences and students have to reorder them within a time limit. Use the dialogue for pronunciation practice or as a model to invent another.

A: My business partners from China invited me to visit them. Can you help me with the table manners in China?

B: Sure. What do you want to know?

A: I know that some restaurants serve two pairs of chopsticks. Why do they do that?

B: One pair is for bringing food to your plate. And another is for eating.

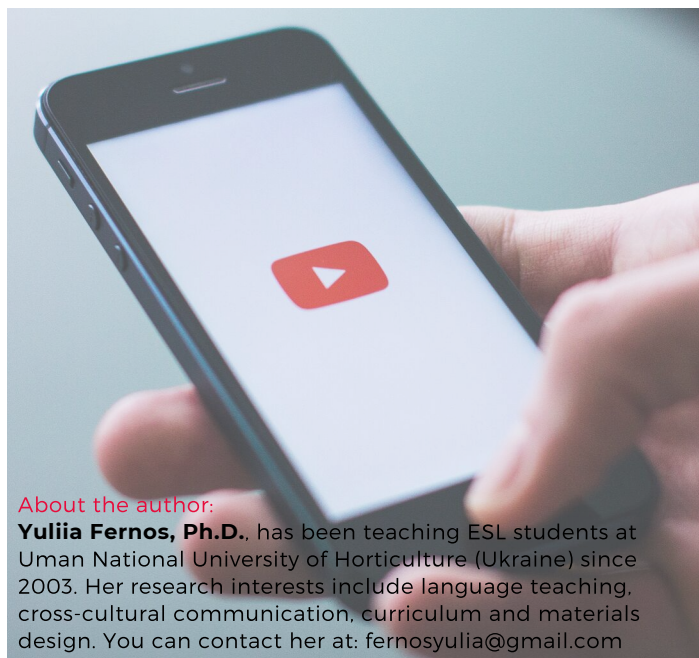
A: Oh, I see. I'm also afraid to be rude. What shouldn't I do to be impolite?

B: Firstly, do not point at people with your chopsticks. Secondly, do not start eating without host's permission. And finally, just keep smiling and be friendly.

A: Thanks a lot. And what about the bill? Who pays it?

B: Usually the host is responsible for paying the bill. Have a nice trip. I'm sure you'll like China and its culture.

Be creative and innovative in designing exciting new lessons and you will be rewarded by the excellent results of your students!



### About the author:

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