



Cultural Faux Pas Detective

Cultural Awareness Speaking Activity

PROUD USERS OF



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**You greet your new British
colleague with three kisses on the
cheek. It's your first day at a
London office.**

Friendly or... too friendly?

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At a business dinner in Japan, you leave a generous tip to show appreciation. The waiter follows you out, returning the money.

Oops. What's the meaning of tipping here?

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You give a thumbs-up gesture to your Arab client after a successful pitch. He frowns and avoids eye contact.

Universal gesture? Not quite.

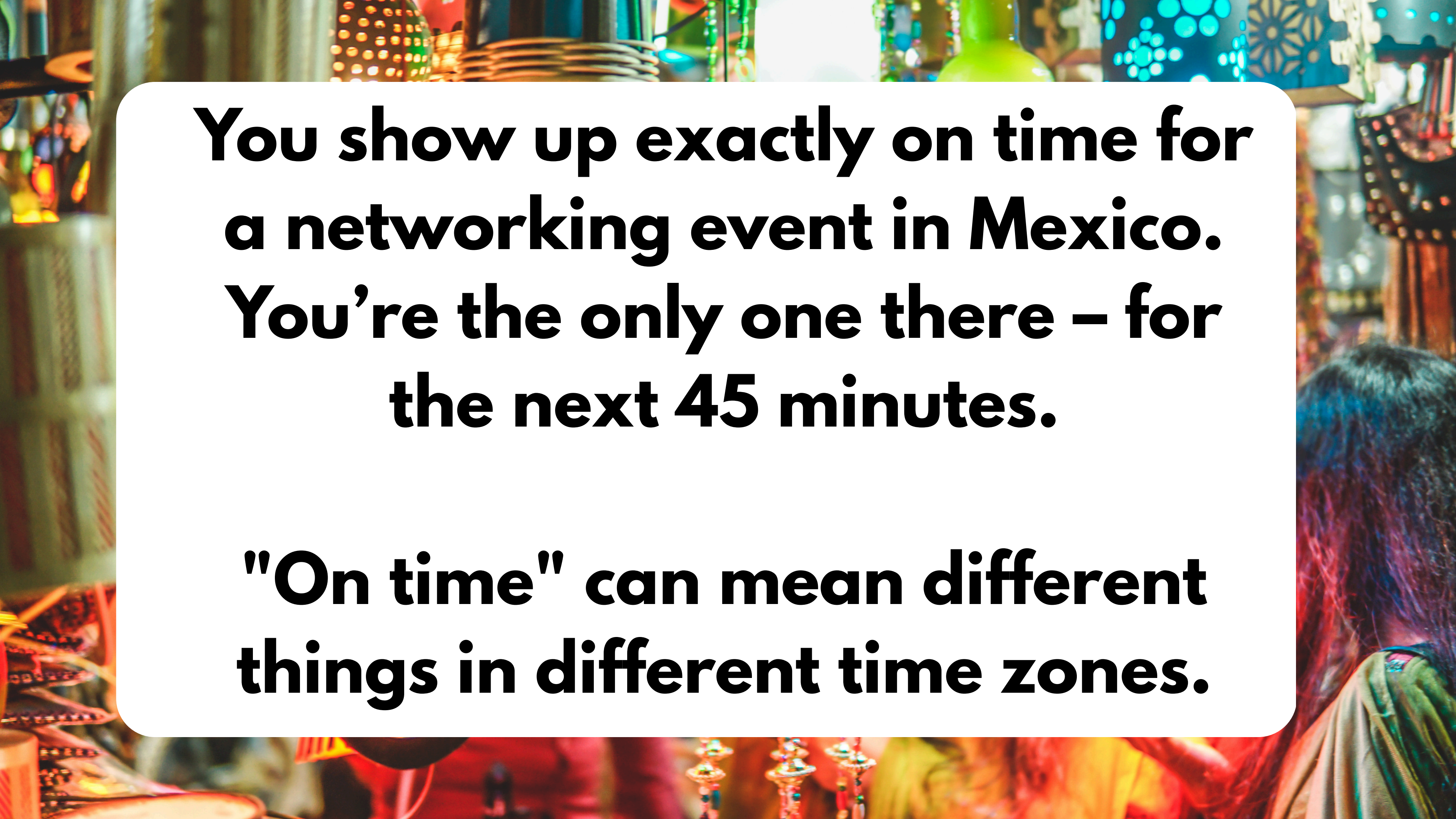
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**You ask your Indian host where
to get a good beef burger. He
goes quiet and looks
uncomfortable.**

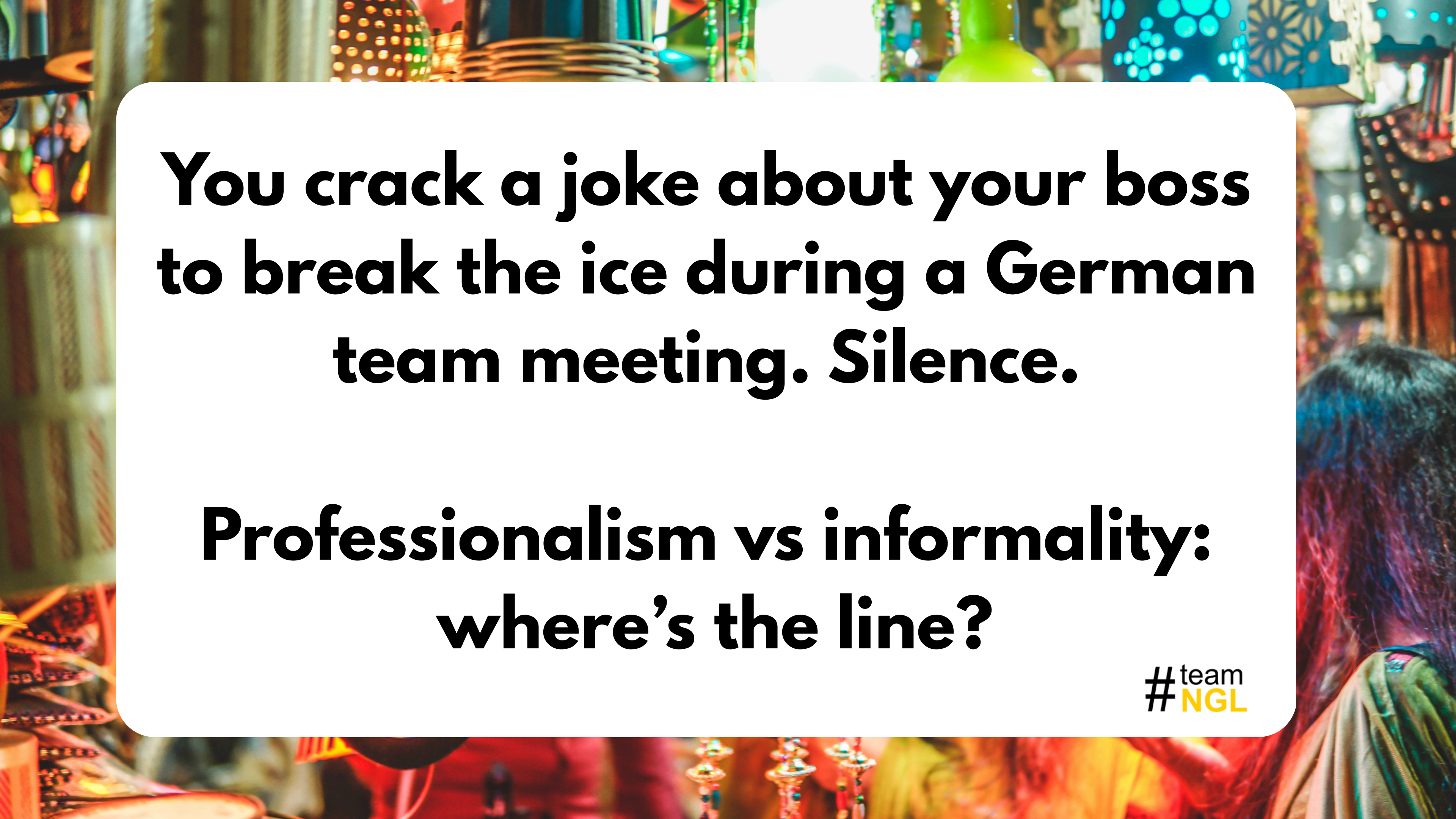
Time to rethink your lunch plans?

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**You show up exactly on time for
a networking event in Mexico.
You're the only one there – for
the next 45 minutes.**

**"On time" can mean different
things in different time zones.**

The background of the slide is a vibrant, out-of-focus image of a festive celebration. It features a variety of colorful lights, including warm-toned string lights and cooler blue and green lights. There are also decorative elements like what appears to be a green glass bottle and other party paraphernalia. The overall atmosphere is bright and celebratory.

**You crack a joke about your boss
to break the ice during a German
team meeting. Silence.**

**Professionalism vs informality:
where's the line?**

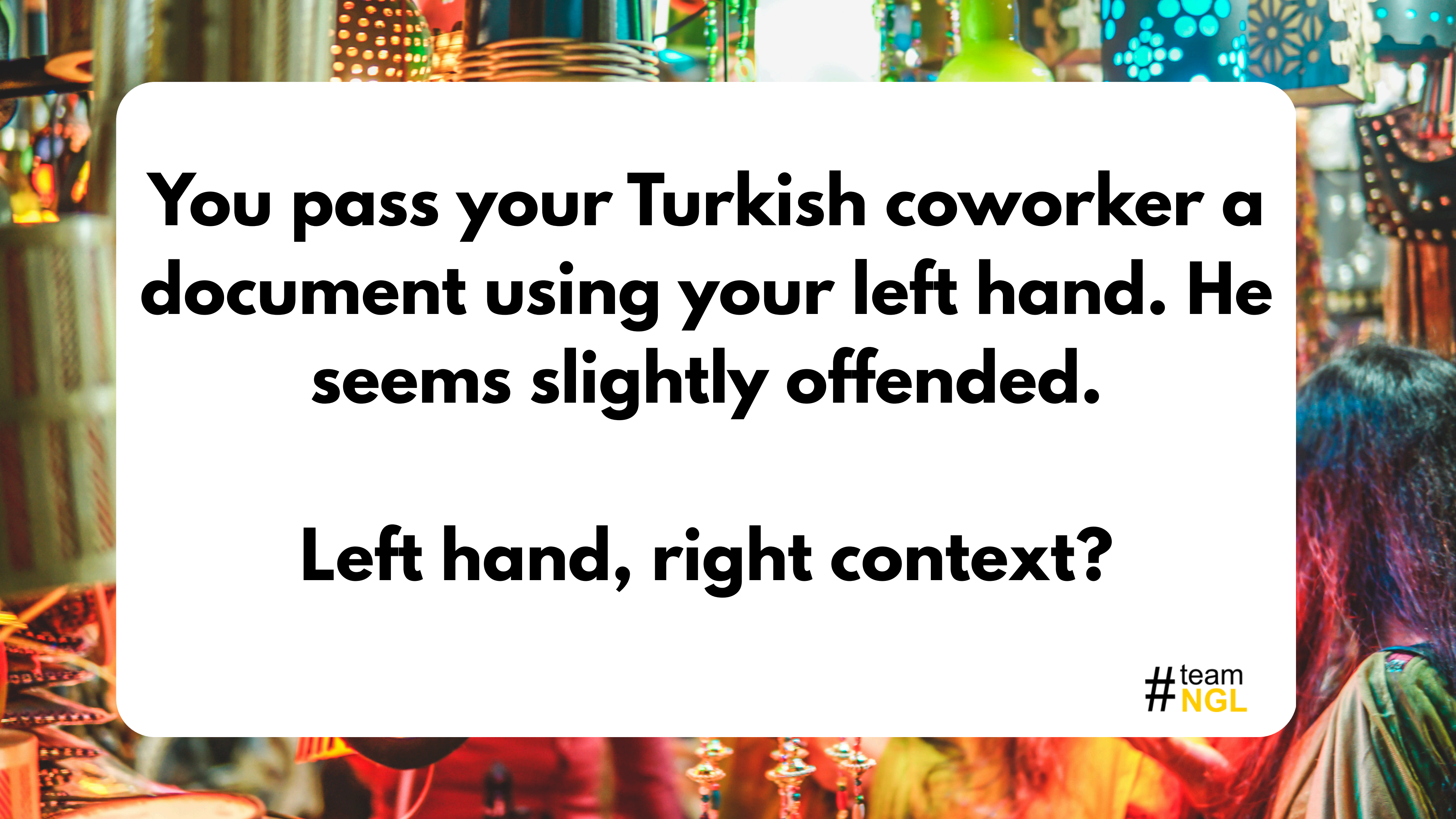
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The background of the slide is a vibrant, out-of-focus collage of festive decorations. It includes colorful string lights in red, yellow, and blue, as well as various ornaments and garlands. The overall atmosphere is celebratory and warm.

**You hand your Chinese client a gift
with one hand, smiling as they
open it immediately.**

Double mistake?

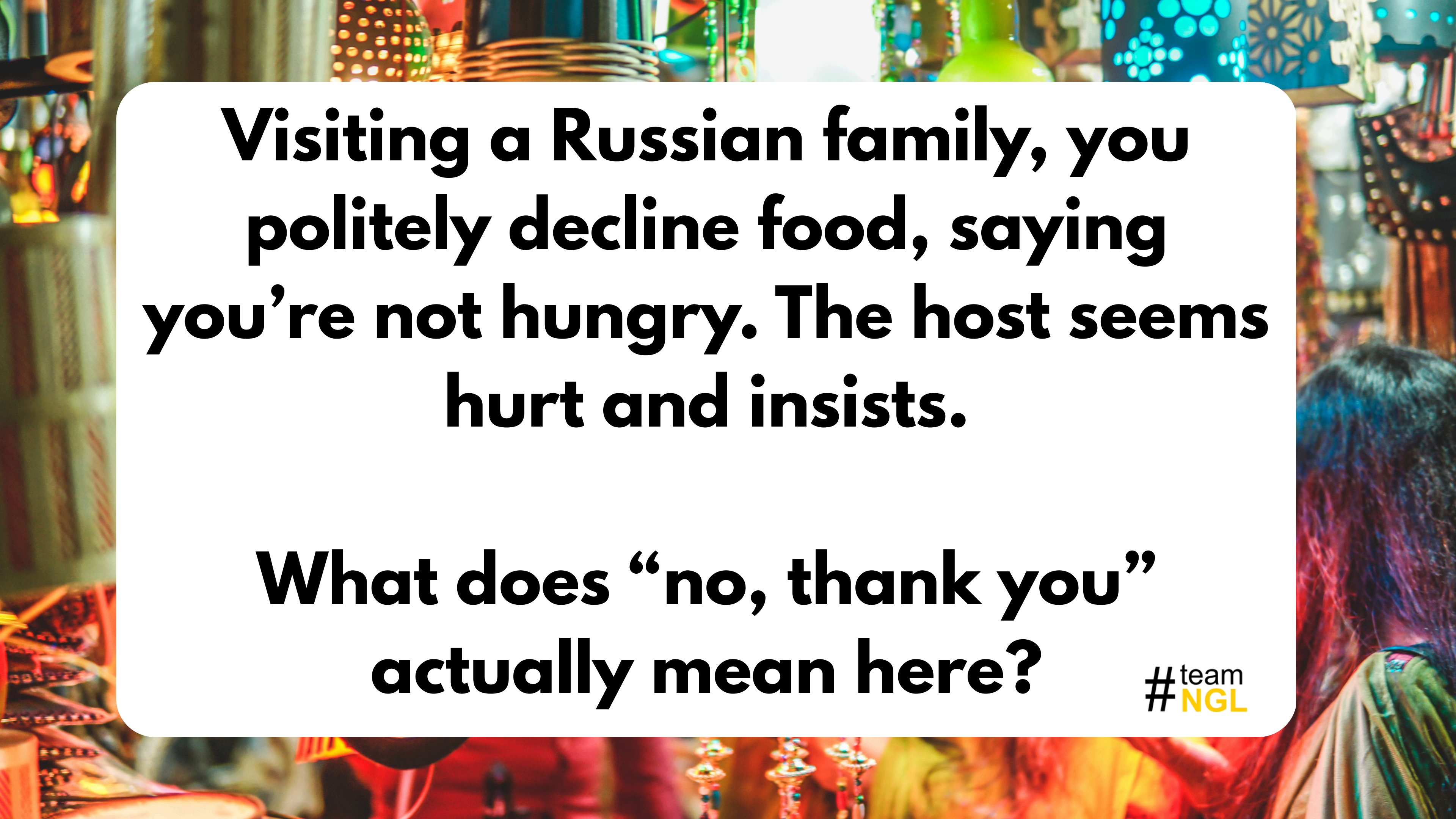
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You pass your Turkish coworker a document using your left hand. He seems slightly offended.

Left hand, right context?

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**Visiting a Russian family, you
politely decline food, saying
you're not hungry. The host seems
hurt and insists.**

**What does “no, thank you”
actually mean here?**

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During a job interview in South Korea, you give and receive a business card without bowing or even looking at it.

Card etiquette matters more than you think.

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The background of the slide is a vibrant, out-of-focus image of a festive celebration. It features a variety of colorful lights, including warm-toned string lights and cooler-toned blue and green lights. There are also decorative elements like beaded garlands and what appears to be a person's head with long, dark hair in the lower right corner. The overall atmosphere is lively and celebratory.

**You interrupt your American
teammate several times during a
brainstorming session to show
enthusiasm.**

Energetic or... rude?

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**You buy white flowers for your
Indian colleague's birthday. They
thank you politely, but seem
confused.**

**White isn't always a symbol of
celebration.**

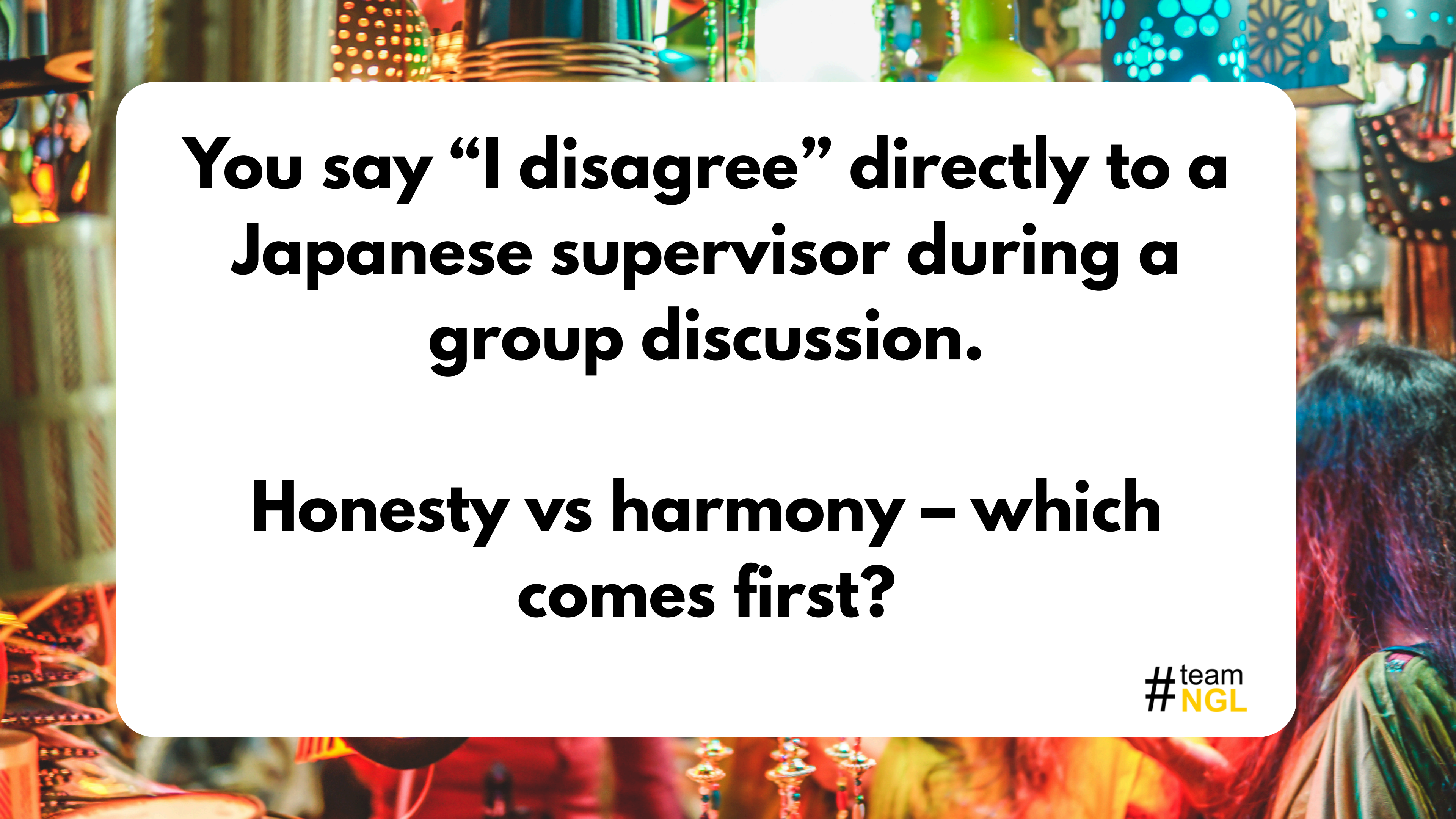
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**While having dinner with your
French host family, you ask for
ketchup for your pasta.**

**Culinary faux pas or
unforgivable sin?**

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**You say “I disagree” directly to a
Japanese supervisor during a
group discussion.**

**Honesty vs harmony – which
comes first?**



Your Turkish client insists on offering tea. You say no three times before finally accepting. He beams with approval.

Refusal is part of the ritual.

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