

# Teacher's Guide – Cultural Faux Pas Detective

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This activity is designed to develop students' intercultural awareness and communication skills in a global context. It is ideal for students at B2 level and above, particularly those preparing to enter international workplaces or study abroad.

## Objective

To help students identify, understand, and reflect on intercultural misunderstandings through real-life inspired scenarios. The focus is on critical thinking, empathy, and respectful communication across cultures.

## How to Use the Cards

Here are a few ways to implement the cards in class:

1. Group Work & Discussion
  - Divide students into small groups.
  - Give each group one card (or let them choose one randomly).
  - Ask them to read the situation, identify the faux pas, discuss what went wrong and how it could be handled better.
  - Groups can present their findings to the class.
2. Role-play / Mini Skits
  - Students act out the situation in pairs or groups.
  - After each skit, the class discusses the cultural misunderstanding and possible alternatives.
  - This can be expanded into a drama-based lesson or speaking assessment.
3. Writing Extension
  - After the discussion, ask students to write an email or dialogue correcting the situation or explaining it politely.
  - Great for practicing formal/informal tone and intercultural sensitivity in written communication.
4. Cultural Reflection
  - Invite students to share any real-life experiences of cultural misunderstandings.
  - Encourage them to reflect: What would they do differently now?

## Teaching Tips

- Encourage open-mindedness and remind students there are no 'wrong' reactions – just different cultural lenses.
- Use the commentary document to provide cultural context or clarify misconceptions.
- Allow time for debriefing – students may have emotional or personal reactions.
- Use online tools like Padlet or Jamboard for collaborative notes or visual reflections.
- Adapt scenarios to the students' study/work goals (e.g. Erasmus, international job interviews, intercultural teams).

## Outcomes

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- recognize the complexity of intercultural communication,
- explain how misunderstandings may occur,
- apply respectful and adaptable communication strategies in future encounters.

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