

50 ways to cross the boundaries between cultures

1. Pay attention to what others say and do
2. Prepare yourself for the transition
3. Pay attention to the process of communication that is occurring in the present, rather than concentrating on the outcome.
4. Be aware of interpreting others' behavior with your own frame of reference, and tending to evaluate others' communicative behaviors, rather than understanding them.
5. Be aware of your culturally based assumptions and interpretations.

For example, did you know that raising eyebrows means different things in different cultures:



- a. "No!" (Arab)
- b. Interest or surprise (North America)
- c. Skepticism (Europe)
- d. "Aren't you clever" (German)
- e. "Hello" (Philippines)
- f. Disagreement (Chinese)

6. Be aware of the Ethnocentric mentality
7. Don't say "my culture is superior".
8. Don't measure other cultures by the standards/values of your own culture (I remake them in my own image).
9. Don't think your culture's way of making friendship is the only acceptable way
10. Don't assume people from other cultures are not to be fully trusted
11. Take your cultural glasses off and see reality through the eyes of others



12. Don't view other cultures as inferior or superior, but simply as different.

13. Don't automatically value performance over people and relationships

14. Where possible, try to operate their way rather than your way.

15. Try to speak some of their language.



16. Strive to accomplish less rather than more.

17. Affectionately respect people no matter what.

18. Don't say, "Back home we do it this way."

19. Focus on the likable, unique aspects of the culture.

20. Put friends and relatives before schedules

21. Being valued as a person for more than just your economic contributions

22. Maintaining long-term relationships with people on the basis of interpersonal trust

23. Integrating your personal life into your professional life

24. Acknowledge you can't change other cultures and visibly appreciate their culture

25. You should pay as much attention to what is not said as to what is said.

26. It is essential that you pray daily for your friend



27. Keep in contact with him by visiting with him in person once or twice
a month

28. Making weekly contact by phone or letter or email

29. Remember his or her birthday by sending a card or planning a party



30. Participate in family celebrations- Birthdays, holidays, and special
events

31. Plan family outings- picnics, visiting friends and family, and
shopping.

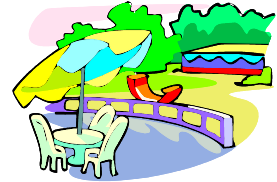
32. General helps, invite your friend to church but don't force or insist.

33. Give a Bible as a gift, preferably in the international language, offer opportunities for studying the bible.

34. Find out what activities and sports he or she is interested in.

35. Plan places to go together like athletic events, trips out of town, concerts, lakes, parks, and museums.

36. Plan to spend time together doing recreational activities like tennis, kite flying, basketball etc.



37. Be alert to each new person around you

38. Have a cheerful, friendly countenance and smile

39. Learn and remember a person's name, and then greet them by their name

40. Ask appropriate questions which reflect interest and acceptance

41. Be a good listener and remind yourself of the interest God has in him.

42. Discover his strong points

43. Ask him appropriate and specific questions about his family

44. Show interest and concern if he shares problems with you.

45. Be honest about yourself and acknowledge your faults to him when appropriate.

46. Reflect interest and trustworthiness in being his friend.

47. Learn about the hopes and desires he has for his life

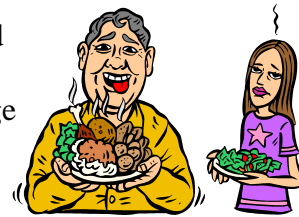
48. Talk with God about him and his needs.

49. It is important to recognize any prejudices you may hold that hinder you from fully accepting other cultures

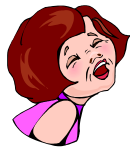
50. Take some time to learn a bit about your host country, some culture behaviors, rules and language

50 Reasons equip us to cross the gab with internationals

1. You like to eat international food
2. You want to practice the language you learned in High School.



3. To experience a culture that is completely different than yours
4. To make friends.
5. To learn to appreciate freedom.
6. Find out the difference between Islam and Christianity.
7. To challenge your faith.



8. To laugh.

9. How else

could you experience the whole world without leaving your home country?

10. Meet future leaders of many countries around the world

and influence a whole nation.

11. Share the Gospel with someone who may have never had heard it before.

12. Change somebody's life.

13. Let your life be changed.

14. Watch less TV.

15. Find purpose for living.

16. Realize the reason why you love Jesus so much.

17. Find out the difference between European time and time



everywhere else.

18. Play soccer with the pros.

19. You might learn Chinese, Arabic, Taiwanese, Japanese, Hindi and others

20. You could teach English, even if don't have a degree.

21. DREAMS COME TRUE. Drink lots of international coffee Or chai.

22. Give your time to someone who will value it.

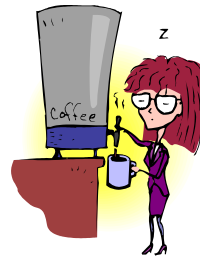
23. Learn to entertain.

24. Prepare yourself for the Mission Field. Jesus said, "Preach the Gospel to the Nations

25. You don't have to be an international to make a difference to one.

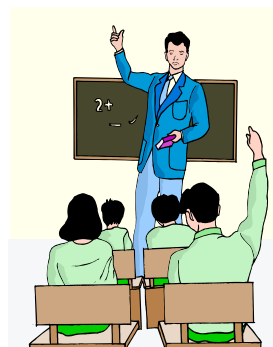
26. Leave your comfort zone.
27. Don't just breathe, LIVE.
28. Build your mansion in heaven.
29. Learn how to say "Hi," in ten different languages
30. Be happy that you did.
31. It's one thing you will never regret! The hour or two you spend each week will matter more than you think possible.
32. Eat Baklava (Taste another suit)

33. Try new kinds of coffees.



34. Maybe you could learn how to dance like the Russians do?
35. "What's the difference between talking to a Hindu here or talking to a Hindu in India?" Nothing.
36. If you are gifted with one or many talents, you will find an outlet to use what God has given you.

37. You could sing.
38. You could worship in another language.



39. You could organize outings.
40. You could preach.
41. You could teach.
42. You could exhort and encourage.
43. You can evangelize.
44. You can
heal or
prophesy
45. You
could start a small group
46. You can do a drama, mime, or skit.
47. You could paint, take pictures, or make a web site
or cook.
48. You can do anything you like to do as ministry to
the Lord and you will not be imprisoned or
beheaded, (like you would be in many other parts of
the world.)

