

Culture File 45, Unit 45

Renting a car

In North America, many people prefer to fly and then rent a car. Remember that you should buy CDW (**Collision Damage Waiver**) and PAI (**Personal Accident Insurance**). The basic insurance doesn't cover collisions (crashes) that are your fault, or injuries to you or your passengers. By the time you've paid state taxes, the extras can double the cost of rental. Some rentals are for **unlimited mileage**. With others you pay extra per mile after a certain distance.

In North America, cars drive on the right of the road. The driver sits on the left, so cars are 'LHD' (Left Hand Drive). In countries where you drive on the left of the road, the driver sits on the right and cars are 'RHD' (Right Hand Drive). Countries where cars drive on the left include the U.K., Ireland, Australia, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, India, Pakistan and Nigeria.

Culture File 46, Unit 46

Compliments

In North America, people usually accept compliments (A. *Your English is very good.* B. *Thank you.*) In the U.K., people often reject them. (A. *Your English is very good.* B. *Oh, no. It isn't really.*) In many cultures people will say something negative about themselves after a compliment, because they're embarrassed. If you're going to say something negative, don't forget to thank the person first.

Women give more compliments than men. Men should be careful about compliments to women. You should avoid mentioning anything personal. This is probably why people often compliment men on possessions (watch, laptop computer, car) and compliment women on accessories (earrings, jewelry, handbag).

Culture File 47, Unit 47

Check-out

Many hotels have an on-screen accounts system so that you can review your account on your room TV at any time. At many international hotels you don't actually need to go to the desk to check-out. They either have an on-screen display or put a bill under your door on the last morning.

If it's correct you don't need to do anything and the hotel will charge your credit card. If it isn't correct, you go to the front desk. It's a good idea to check your credit card statements carefully afterwards.

Culture File 48, Unit 48

Goodbyes

You may wave, shake hands, hug or kiss on the cheek. It depends on how well you know someone. Men should let women choose the form of farewell, as with greetings (see Culture File 9). Always thank people for any help that they've given you. It's unusual to give farewell gifts in North America or the U.K.