

## CULTURE

**Exercise 1. Complete the conversation using words below.**

**commonplace      deeply      irrespective**  
**long-standing      peculiar      rooted      stereotypical**

A: How was your work trip to China, Alissa?

B: Great. I must say though, they do business differently there. For one thing, lateness isn't just annoying. It's actually normal to get to a meeting around fifteen minutes early.

A: That's interesting.

B: And business cards are still (1) \_\_\_\_\_ there, and they're designed really ornately, almost like a power symbol. Also, everything follows strict rules of seniority. It's a (2) \_\_\_\_\_ convention to find the most senior person and greet them first. Then, during the meeting, you have to address them first, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of whether they're the right person to speak to. But the most (4) \_\_\_\_\_ thing for me was the small talk. It's all personal questions like, 'How old are you?' and 'How much do you earn?'

**Exercise 2: Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.**

1. Many people associate the British with drinking tea, but that's just a belief about --- behaviour. Coffee is popular, too.
2. It's important to respect other people's cultural beliefs, --- of whether you agree with them.
3. My husband's family has a deeply --- heritage dating back centuries.
4. It's a long- --- tradition in our family to have a party on someone's birthday.
5. Didn't you think it was a bit --- the way he didn't say anything?

**Exercise 3: Complete the sentences with your own ideas. Then compare your answers with a partner.**

1. An opinion that is stereotypical about people from my country is ... .
2. A gesture of politeness, irrespective of culture, is ... .
3. A way my perspective has been changed recently by reading a book or watching a film is ... .
4. Some customs that are peculiar to my family include ... .
5. An attitude that is commonplace in my country is ... .
6. A deeply rooted tradition that I think is unlikely ever to change is ... .

### ANSWER KEY

### Exercise 1.

1. commonplace
2. long-standing
3. irrespective
4. peculiar

### Exercise 2.

- |                  |                    |           |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. stereotypical | 2. irrespective of | 3. rooted |
| 4. standing      | 5. peculiar        |           |

Exercise 3: Answers vary.