

Teaching Culture!



www.teaching-culture.de

Do you serve Mexican tacos? Becoming aware of our own cultural stereotypes through paralinguistic guessing.

| Time | What | How | Who | With what |
|----------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 0' | Introduction | Ask the group to interpret the meanings of various signs, gestures, facial expressions, etc. which are intended to depict universal messages connected to basic human needs. The group is then asked to interpret some paralinguistic messages which are culturally weighted and which are known to have specific but different meanings for different cultures. Discuss interpretations with the group. | Teacher input /whole group discussion | |
| 15' | Discovering some of our own cultural stereotypes. | You are staying in a hotel in a foreign country. You are in the bar/restaurant/reception and need to ask a question/make a statement. As you have lost your voice you will have to mime! Each group member, in turn, plays the hotel guest and mimes a message. The rest of the group must interpret the message in spoken language. | Groups of 4-6 | Question/statement cards (upside down) |
| 35' 50' | Analysis of interpretations | Compare messages received and messages performed. Why were these often different from person to person, group to group? What national stereotypes do we carry with us from our own cultural backgrounds? Why? Are cultural generalisations a symbol of our innate, underlying xenophobia or are they just, acceptable and useful symbols which enable us to communicate effectively with each other? | Whole group discussion, moderated | |

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