

STEREOTYPES & PREJUDICES

- What's a stereotype?
- Of all these definitions, which one do you agree with?

Fixed image or set of characteristics that a lot of people believe represent a particular type of person

A fixed idea or image that many people have of a particular type of person, but which is often not really true

- How do the foreigners see us?

- **Listening- /Reading**

David is a Canadian who has lived in London for many years. Listen to and read what he says about Italy and the Italians

What I'd like to tell you about is the way I think that the English see the Italians. First of all, Italians drink a lot of wine, mostly red wine, and they eat a lot of pasta, with tomato sauce. They're friendly, they talk a lot, and when they talk, they wave their hands about and we say in England, *an Italian talks with his hands*. They love cars, and they drive very fast, and they swear a lot at everybody else when they're driving. Also, Italians sing, of course, they're always singing Verdi and Puccini and they go to the opera, and opera is very important to Italians.

Italian women are seen as being very glamorous, they're beautiful, and they dress very fashionably. They spend a lot of money on their clothes, and they're very elegant. In fact, in England design and Italian clothes are considered very superior, they're very sought after, and even when it comes to furniture and things for the house, Italian things are very much in favour.

Oral discussion

- Do you agree with this idea of Italians or is it just a stereotype?
- Do you know any other stereotypes about us?
- What's your idea of the

GERMANS

GREEK

RUMANIANS

- Analyse this information about the manners, traditions and customs of the Germans, Rumanians, Greeks. Find out analogies and differences between them and with the Italians (see “CUSTOMS MANNERS TRADITIONS)

ROMANIA

Romanians are formal and reserved with a strong need for privacy. Most do not trust strangers readily. They are generally shy and quiet when you first meet. Once you develop a personal relationship Romanians will open up slightly.

Although always polite, they seldom move to a first-name basis with people outside their extended family or very close friends.

MEETING & GREETINGS

- Initial greetings are formal and reserved: a handshake, direct eye contact. Close friends may kiss and hug each other when they meet. When kissing, expect to kiss twice, once on each cheek starting with the left cheek. Friends may address each other using the honorific title ("Domnul" for Mr. and "Doamna" for Mrs.) and the first name. Only close friends and family members use the first name without the honorific title.

INVITATIONS

- If you are invited to a Romanian's home, bring flowers, (an odd number of flowers. Even numbers are used for funerals) and also chocolates, or liquor to the host.
- Arrive on time if invited to dinner.
- Dress in clothes you might wear to the office.
- Check to see if there are shoes at the front door. If so, remove yours.

DINING ETIQUETTE

- Leave your napkin on the table. Do not put it in your lap.
- Wait for the host or hostess to say "pofta buna" (good appetite) before you begin eating.
- Expect to be offered second and even third helpings.
- You will have to insist that you cannot eat any more, as refusals are seen as good manners and are not taken seriously.

GREECE

Family plays a role in most aspects of life. Family members frequently become involved in each other's lives. Members of the family actively seek to help each other. Greeks are known for their hospitality and laid-back attitude

MEETING AND GREETINGS

- When meeting someone for the first time, it is customary to either allow someone to introduce you or state your name. Shaking hands firmly is the most appropriate greeting during a first meeting
- Good friends embrace and kiss each other on both cheeks. Shaking someone's hands while also tapping their shoulder is also quite common amongst male friends.

In general, Greeks will often ask questions, such actions are simply ways to approach people and create new relationships without a sense of formality. Most Greeks like to make jokes and ask foreigners about their countries

INVITATIONS

- If a Greek person invites you to their home, then you should keep in mind that punctuality is not a huge concern.
- The dress code depends entirely on the occasion. An invitation for a coffee requires entirely casual attire. An invitation to a big dinner means that you should dress well but not formally
- It is a good idea to bring sweets from the local bakery or just a bottle of wine as a small gift.
- Upon arrival, thanking the host for the invitation and complimenting their home will be appreciated.

DINING ETIQUETTE

- During a meal, table manners are casual. Expect many discussions to happen around the dinner table because meal times are social occasions for the Greeks
- Refusing food is considered impolite. If you absolutely have to refuse for one reason or another, try to explain why and the host will understand
- Asking for another serving will delight the hosts, as it is considered a compliment to their cooking skills

- Guests are considered a part of the family as far as meal time is concerned, which means that they can and should eat or at least try whatever is on the table

GERMANY

In a culture where most communication is rather formal, only close friends and relatives are invited into the privacy of the house. In some houses you might be expected to take off your shoes when entering

MEETING & GREETINGS

- Greetings are often rather formal unless among friends :a quick, firm handshake with a straight look into the eyes is the traditional greeting
- Titles are very important and denote respect. Use a person's (academic) title and their surname until invited to use their first name. You should say "Herr" or "Frau" and the person's title and their surname. Always use 'Sie' instead of 'Du' unless you are offered a 'Du'.

INVITATIONS

- If you are invited to a German's house, bring a gift such as fine chocolates, a bottle of wine or flowers
- If you are invited to a German's house arrive on time. Never arrive early.
- Do a short phone call or send a thank you note the following day to thank your host for her/his hospitality
- Remain standing until invited to sit down. You may be shown to a particular seat.

DINING ETIQUETTE

- Germans do not generally serve other people. Plates of food are passed around the table and each person takes what and how much he wants.
- Do not begin eating until the hostess starts or someone says 'Guten Appetit' then repeat the words and start eating.
- Finish everything on your plate. If you do not want any more food or drink, say so politely. Germans will not ask again, as they expect you to express your personal wishes. They will also not take it as impolite or an insult if you say "no".
- Do not start drinking alcoholic drinks until the host gives the first toast. The most common toast with beer is 'Prost'