

You are going to listen to a story about a man from the United States living in another country. In this story, he realizes that he has a different attitude toward punctuality or being on time from everyone else.

Listening task 1: look at the questions, then listen to the story and write your answers.

I had just begun an appointment as a visiting professor of psychology at a university in Brazil near Rio de Janeiro. I arrived anxious to observe just what characteristics of this alien culture would require the greatest readjustment from me. From my past travel experiences, I anticipated difficulties with such as uses, language, and privacy, but these turned out to be a piece of cake compared to the distress that Brazilians ideas of time and punctuality caused me. My lessons began soon after arriving in Brazil as I left home for my first day of teaching, I asked someone the time, it was 9:05 a.m. allowing me plenty of time to get to my ten o'clock lecture after what I judged to be half an hour I glanced at a clock I was passing it said 10:20. In panic, I broke for the classroom followed by gentle calls of "Hallo professor!" from unhurried students, many of whom I later realized were my own. I arrived breathless only to find an empty room, frantically I asked a passerby the time 9:45 came the answer, but no, that couldn't be. I asked someone else 9:55 another squinted down at his watch and called out proudly exactly 9:43. The clock in a nearby office read 3:15. I had received my first two lessons about time and punctuality. Brazilian timepieces are consistently inaccurate, and nobody seemed to mind, but me. My class was scheduled from 10:00 until noon. Many students came late, several arrived after 10:30, a few showed up closer to 11:00, two came after that. All of the latecomers wore the relaxed smiles I later came to enjoy each one greeted me, and although a few apologized briefly, none seemed terribly concerned about being late. They assumed that I understood that Brazilians would arrive late was no surprise. Although it was certainly a new personal experience to watch students casually enter a classroom more than one hour late for a two-hour class, the real surprise came at noon that first day when the class came to a close. Back home in California, I never need to look at a clock to know when the class hour is ending the shuffling of books is accompanied by strained expressions screaming I'm hungry I'm thirsty I've got to go to the bathroom I'm going to suffocate if you keep us here one more second the pain I find usually becomes unbearable at two minutes to the hour for undergraduates



and at about five minutes to the hour for graduate students, but when noon arrived only a few students left right away others slowly drifted out during the next 15 minutes and some continued asking me questions long after that. Several remaining students kicked off their shoes at 12:30. I could not, with any honesty, say that this was due to my superb teaching style I had. In fact, just spent two hours lecturing on statistics in halting Portuguese.

Listening tasks two: listen to the story again and choose the correct answer for each question, then compare your answers with a partner.

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Listen for the third time to make sure you understood everything.

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Advanced Two - Unit One - Listening

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Advanced Two - Unit One - Mini Listening

Listen to Andrew, Amy, and Layla talking about their experiences abroad. Were they positive or negative experiences?

When I was in college, I spent a semester studying in London. Even though we speak the same language, English people and Americans are very different. I guess I felt that Americans have a bad reputation some people think we're loud and that we speak our minds too much, so I tried to listen a bit more and not be so assertive if that makes sense, I wanted to make a good impression, I shouldn't have worried about it, but I did. I love the lifestyle they're going out for afternoon tea was fun and I really loved the old buildings. We don't have anything that old in the United States, so it was pretty amazing. The British also have a different sense of humor, don't you like it their comedy shows on TV are really funny. I'd have to say my experience was a positive one overall. In fact, I'm saving up money so I can go back there again.

I lived in Madrid for a whole year, and I have to be honest and say that at first well I wasn't very happy if there was homesick. I missed my family, and I just wanted to go home. Part of the problem was my Spanish. I couldn't communicate very well, but I love to eat, and that's what really saved me. You see once I discovered Tapas, oh let me explain Tapas are these delicious appetizers you eat, so I made some Spanish friends, and we go out to Tapas bars, so I got to eat a lot of delicious food and of course my Spanish improved dramatically as well; but there was one thing that was difficult to adjust to, and that was that dinner was always served at a late hour. I wasn't used to eating at 11:00 at night.

I came over to the U.S. from the middle-east. My family opened up a restaurant here. At first, I found it difficult. Everything seems so different just using a payphone, for example, or going to a doctor was different. I was pretty overwhelmed, and I guess because I wasn't feeling comfortable, I tended to make friends only with people from my country. I felt like I was living in a bubble separated from the Americans, but once I started feeling more confident about my English, I started meeting Americans. I found them very friendly and open, and it turned out to be very easy to make friends, but there was one thing about Americans that bothered me. At first, I found it hard to get used to the way they talked so much about themselves. It took me a long time to understand that you were supposed to talk about yourself too, because that is how people get to know one another. It's still hard for me to talk a lot about myself, but I'm getting better at it.

Now listen again and check your answers.

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