

# Unit 11

## Unit 11 Extension

- 1 Read the text. Tick (✓) the sentences 1–6 the author probably agrees with.

### Do we need a culture guide before visiting a foreign country?

We are always advised to learn about a nation's customs and cultures before we visit the country – you must learn if it's polite to make direct eye contact or not, they say. It's important to know if you can point with your finger when you ask for directions. Be careful you don't offend the person you are talking to. These tips are important, of course, but how necessary is it to learn a long list of dos and don'ts for a country?

I think most people understand that a foreigner has different habits, and they might do things a little differently. What is important is to be polite at all times. Be friendly and have a smile on your face. These are usually the only things you have to remember.

If you are still worried, look at what the locals are doing. Here are some examples:

- If you are waiting to buy something in a shop or market stall and the locals are queuing, you should queue too.
- What are the locals wearing? Is it OK to wear casual clothes in a restaurant or do people dress in formal clothes?

Try to learn a few phrases before you go and then when you arrive try to use them. You will have a much nicer experience if you can speak to the local people. And lastly, try to leave the tourist bubble. Take public transport, eat the local food, visit lots of interesting places. Enjoy your time there!

- 1 You should learn a lot about a country before you visit. ....
  - 2 Local people are often surprised if a foreigner behaves in a different way. ....
  - 3 If you are not polite in a foreign country, you may have problems. ....
  - 4 A smile is more important than knowing if you can point with your finger. ....
  - 5 You learn a lot by watching what other tourists do in the country you are visiting. ....
  - 6 You shouldn't try local food and should probably eat in the tourist restaurants. That way you know what you are eating at all times. ....
- 2 Work in pairs. What do you think of the text? Do you agree with the writer? Which parts did you not agree with, if any? What experiences do you have to support your opinions? What do you understand by the 'tourist bubble'?
- 3 Think about your country or a country you know well. What things would you advise someone to do to leave the tourist bubble? Think about places to visit, local food to try, transport, language, shopping, cultural events, etc. Is there a good time of the year to visit so that they can see a festival or try a type of food? Make notes.
- 4 Work in pairs. Take it in turns to tell each other your suggestions for the person visiting the country.