

# Communicating effectively with the chinese

Sociology



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I did not know if responding with a nod would be considered disrespectful, but it was my only option. I had seen in Chinese movies that when they greeted each other they bowed as a sign of respect, I was going to collaborate with nodding with hopes of not embarrassing myself. Finally, someone came to the door and introduced herself to me in Chinese I nodded and I bowed slightly. She bowed too and asked me to come in, in English. I felt so relieved and I explained to her that I did not know Chinese. She laughed and told me that I was in luck that she was there since no one else in the family spoke English. She explained to me that when she introduces me to the mourners it is respectful to stand up, smile, and look at them with ease, and after the introduction; I could shake hands (Kao, 9).

She introduced me as her cousin's friend and explained that I did not know Chinese or anything to do with their culture. They looked at me with smiley faces with some even giggling and this made me feel very much at ease. After the service, I took the time to talk to her and she told me a few things about her culture including how to use chopsticks. I regretted not taking an interest to learn the language or even to know how to say hi when my friend was still alive. I learned a lot at that burial and it created an interest to study the Chinese language. I in return taught them a few things about our culture and our food. I realized that there is always something new and interesting in other cultures. If people would take more time to learn about each other, things like language barriers would be minimized and would create more harmony. Now when I meet with a Chinese I communicate very well and with ease.

Learning something new about other societies, for instance, their language or ways of life are important and can be of help in different situations.

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Interacting is made easier as there will be little or no need for an interpreter or guide to translate and help with the communication (Cai, 6). It is important to respect other people's way of communication and to research on it to avoid misconceptions or misunderstandings. This will make positive impressions and create good relations.