

## Culture Lesson 18: Social Etiquette in Turkey



<http://personalized-odysseys.com/turkey-evokes-superlatives/>

### Activity 1 | Vocabulary and Expressions

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**Directions:** Listen and repeat.

- **abide by** [ə 'baɪd baɪ]- to follow, to respect a rule
- **learn the hard way** [lɜ:rn ðə hɑ:rd weɪ]- to learn something by experience, especially by an unpleasant experience
- **rapport** [ræ 'pɔ:r]- relationship, especially one of mutual understanding
- **amiability** [ ,eɪmiə 'bɪləti]- friendliness
- **suffice** [sə 'faɪs]- be enough, be sufficient
- **denote** [dɪ 'noʊt]- to indicate, to signify
- **albeit** [ ,ɔ:l 'bi:t]- even though, although
- **if push comes to shove** [ɪf pʊʃ kʌmz tə ʃʌv]- if really needed

## Activity 2 | Dialogue

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**Directions:** Read the dialogue aloud with your teacher.

*Cory has to go on a business trip in Turkey; luckily, he has a friend there, Altan*

**Cory:** So, can you tell me what social etiquette rules I should **abide by**? I wouldn't want to make mistakes and **learn the hard way**.

**Altan:** Sure. Firstly, we are a modest and very hospitable nation. When doing business, you'll need to establish a **rapport** and to inspire trust and **amiability** to your business partners.

**Cory:** How do I greet the people I meet?

**Altan:** A handshake will **suffice**. Greet the oldest person first. Look them in the eye when you talk, it **denotes** sincerity. If you meet a woman, wait for her to initiate the handshake.

**Cory:** Do I bring gifts? What sort of presents are appropriate?

**Altan:** Gifts are welcomed if you're invited to someone's house. Remember to bring every member a little something and avoid bringing alcohol unless you know for sure that they drink.

**Cory:** What about eating? Is there something I should avoid doing? For example, in some cultures, I should not eat everything from the plate, but leave something on it.

**Altan:** Here, it's quite the opposite. If you leave food on the plate, the host might be offended. If you have to eat with your hands, never eat with the left one, as it is considered impure.

**Cory:** This is all very interesting, **albeit** a bit too much to remember.

**Altan:** You'll do fine. Oh, and we don't split the bill. If you invite someone to dinner, you pay.

**Cory:** Got it. I will only invite someone **if push comes to shove**. I hope the deal will be signed successfully without having to have too many meetings and negotiations.

### Activity 3 | Filling the Blank

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**Directions:** Fill in the blanks below to complete the sentences.

1. Unfortunately, I \_\_\_\_\_ that people can be very mean.
2. This amount of money will \_\_\_\_\_ to buy a proper present.
3. Those who do not \_\_\_\_\_ the law will be punished.
4. Rude children \_\_\_\_\_ bad upbringing.
5. The plot was interesting, \_\_\_\_\_ a bit too convoluted.
6. His \_\_\_\_\_ got him very far in life.
7. You will need to build some \_\_\_\_\_ with your boss.
8. \_\_\_\_\_, I will have to quit this job.

abide by	learn the hard way	rapport	amiability
suffice	denote	albeit	if push comes to shove

## Activity 4 | Understanding the vocabulary

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**Directions:** Make sentences with the following: “learn the hard way”, “albeit”, “if push comes to shove”.

## Activity 5 | Free Conversation

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**Directions:** Take turns with your teacher in answering the questions

1. What can you tell us about the social etiquette rules in your country?
2. What about other countries?
3. Have you ever experienced a cultural shock?
4. What do you do to avoid making cultural mistakes when traveling?