



Culture in Japan and in the USA

Japan is one of the coolest destinations for Americans, but there are many differences between the USA and Japan that can cause culture shock. One example is formality. Japanese people are generally more formal and less friendly than Americans. For example, in America it is common for strangers to chat in an elevator and for waiters to ask about your day and how you are enjoying your food. In Japan, strangers don't usually talk to each other, and good service is formal and discrete. And in the USA it is important to leave a tip, but in Japan, people do not tip, it can even be an insult! Things can be different in the home, too. In the USA, it is very common for young people to move out of their parents' home when they finish school.

However, in Japan, people often live with their parents until they get married. One possible reason is that Japan is a collectivist culture, but the USA is more individualistic. In Japan, people generally find pride and happiness in the group they belong to, for example, their family, school, basketball team or the company they work for. This means that loyalty is important and is rewarded. In the USA, people find satisfaction in their own achievements and focus on their own goals and ambitions. They change jobs more often because it suits their own goals or plans. Of course, there are also many similarities between Japan and the USA; both are very modern countries with a lot of technology. And they share food, fashion and entertainment more and more.

1. Look at the photos and mark the ones that best illustrate the essay.


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2. Answer the questions.

1. Why are Japanese considered to be more formal than Americans?

2. Do young people in both countries leave their parents' house at the same age? Explain.
