

## IELTS ENGLISH PODCAST. CLOTHING. TRANSCRIPT

### Part 1. Have you ever visited a country with a culture different from your own?

Okay, I've visited several countries with cultures different from my own.

A number come to my mind, but a good example would probably be Thailand.

When I went to Thailand for the first time, it was so exotic. There were so many things to see and experiences to have, but also I noticed, *wow*, that it's so different from the UK – that I definitely experienced some culture shock while I was there.

### Q. How do you feel about experiencing new cultures?

I really, really enjoy experiencing new cultures. One of my favourite things to do is to travel. I've been to several countries, especially in Southeast Asia, which is near where I'm located – I'm in East Asia – so I'm really fascinated to see different cultures, the way that their etiquette is different to my own.

Seeing maybe the subcultures, you know, you see that in Japan, where they have all these subcultures with amazing clothing and hair. So yes, I'm a huge fan of experiencing other cultures.

### Part 2. Describe a time when you experienced culture shock.

I'd like to tell you about South Korea. I came to South Korea in January 2010 – so it's been 15 years. It was an immediate culture shock when I came off the plane and noticed how, as I'm moving through the airport, people are so much busier and there's a lot of hustle and bustle.

People are maybe touching each other – I mean, they're kind of shoulder-barging each other. It was certainly different etiquette standards, which surprised me. So immediately I felt, *wow*, I'm in a totally different place.

As I spent more time in South Korea, so many things really stood out to me, but just briefly, on the positive side – the hospitality was amazing. The way that South Koreans take care of guests – especially if you are part of the family or friendship group – is beyond anything I've ever experienced.

Let me tell you a little more about South Korea. South Korea is in the east of Asia. It's very influenced by Confucianism, originally. It's changing now, but that means that it's a very collectivist culture.

As I said, they really take care of each other. They like to do things in groups. So this definitely was a source of my culture shock when I came here – that *wow*, people love to be in groups and there's less individuality.

For me personally, it was really tough. It was very hard to overcome the culture shock. I remember it took at least three months to feel comfortable here, but such a growing and learning experience for me.

I quickly made friends and travelled to different parts of Korea.

## VOCABULARY