

**LESSON 4** **GOAL** Discuss how culture changes over time

**BEFORE YOU READ**  
**APPLY PRIOR KNOWLEDGE** In what ways do you think table manners have changed since the days when your grandparents were children?

**READING**

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GC: Today, Global Culture is interviewing Eugenia Hartley of Jackson, Mississippi, in the U.S., about changes to culture. Ms. Hartley, culture has changed a bit since you were growing up in the forties, hasn't it?

Hartley: Oh, definitely, and maybe more so for me than for others because Jackson is in the South, which was pretty socially conservative when I was a young girl.

GC: Please tell us about some of the changes you have personally experienced.

Hartley: My heavens! Well, the new South is so different from the old South in a lot of good ways, as everyone knows. But since you ask me personally, it would probably be dating customs, the way young people talk to their elders, table manners...

GC: OK. How have those things changed?

Hartley: Well, for example, when I was growing up, the family dinner hour was the one time in the day when the family sat down together, and it was a special time. Today, that's changed. In many families, there is no dinner hour. Kids eat snacks or fast food all day, moms are out in the workforce and don't have time to make a proper meal, and there are so many activities that it seems like no one has time. In my day, children were more respectful and quiet at the table—we spoke when we were spoken to, we didn't put our elbows on the table, and we dressed nicely. No one came to the dinner table in shorts or jeans the way they do today.

GC: That's different, isn't it? You mentioned dating. How has that changed?

Hartley: Well, today, I see boys and girls on dates at the mall. They can't be more than twelve or thirteen years old! I wasn't allowed to go out on a proper date until I was sixteen. And when I finally was allowed to date, my parents didn't let me go out with a boy they hadn't already met. Oh, and I had a definite curfew. I had to be home by 11:00. If I came in late, I was grounded—for at least a month. It was a little different for my brother, though. I guess there was a bit of a double standard. He could go out on dates when he was sixteen, but his curfew wasn't as strict as mine. He was allowed to stay out until midnight.

GC: And you mentioned the way young people addressed their elders. How has that changed?

Hartley: Well, today you hear teens, even children, calling adults by their first names. We had to address adults as "Mr." or "Mrs." And we always used Mr. and Mrs. I suppose that sounds a little old-fashioned today, doesn't it?

GC: Maybe so! Thanks so much, Ms. Hartley, for an interesting interview.

*Eugenia Hartley*

*Mississippi is in the southern U.S.*

**A DRAW CONCLUSIONS** Answer the questions, based on the Reading. Explain the reasoning behind each of your answers.

- How old do you estimate Ms. Hartley to be today?
- Does Ms. Hartley prefer the culture of the past or the culture of the present?
- What is Ms. Hartley's opinion of the change in the role of mothers?
- Does Ms. Hartley approve of the differences in child and teen behavior that have taken place?

**B UNDERSTAND FROM CONTEXT** Find and underline each of the following words in the Reading. Then use your understanding of the words to write definitions.

elders	
workforce	
dating	
curfew	
grounded	

**NOW YOU CAN** Discuss how culture changes over time

**A FRAME YOUR IDEAS** Think about how culture has changed since your parents or grandparents were your age. If necessary, ask your parents or grandparents for information. Complete the survey.

**Culture Survey**

	have changed a little	have changed a lot	is the change for the better?
	YES	NO	YES
1. Table manners	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Musical tastes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Dating customs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Clothing customs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Rules about formal behavior	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. Rules about punctuality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. Forms of address	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. Male / female roles in the workplace	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. Male / female roles in the home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Total YES answers: _____			

**Are you a dinosaur or a chameleon?**

How many times did you check YES in the third column?

0-3 = **Definitely a dinosaur.**  
You prefer to stick with tradition. Your motto: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

4-6 = **A little of both.** You're willing to adapt to change, but not too fast. Your motto: "Stay close to it!"

7-9 = **Definitely a chameleon.** You adapt to change easily. Your motto: "Out with the old, in with the new!"

**B PAIR WORK** Compare and discuss your answers. Provide specific examples of changes for each answer. Use the past perfect if you can.

**C DISCUSSION** Talk about how culture has changed. Include these topics in your discussion:

- Which changes do you think are good? Which changes are not good? Explain your reasons.
- How do you think older people feel about these changes?
- Do you think men and women differ in their feelings about cultural change? If so, how?

**Test taking (optional)**  
Find and underline three words or phrases in the Reading that were new to you. Use them in your Discussion. For example: "strict."

**RECYCLE THIS LANGUAGE.**

<b>Formality</b> be on a first-name basis prefer to be addressed by ____ it's impolite to ____ it's offensive to ____ it's customary to ____ it isn't customary to ____	<b>Tag questions</b> (People don't ____ ) as much, do they? (Customs) used to be ____ didn't they?	<b>Agreement / Disagreement</b> I agree. I think you're right. I disagree. Actually, I don't agree because ____ Really? I think ____
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10 UNIT 1

UNIT 1 11

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