**Misunderstandings - Embarrassing situation during student exchanges**

**ROLE PLAYS - DISCUSSIONS**

Situation 1: You have just arrived in your family. You want to pack your suitcase and give out presents right away. The host parents thank you but look reserved towards the presents or even don’t open them. You are a little disappointed.

a) It's obviously not the right time. Dinner is waiting!

b) They must be very happy, but in their culture they don't show their feelings so strongly.

c) They can't do anything with the gifts. You should explain to them what it is exactly.

d) ….?

Situation 2: You want to take a shower. But you cannot lock the bathroom.

a) You shower in 3 minutes and hope that no one comes in. And if they do, you have your towel ready to cover your body!

b) You let everyone know so that no one disturbs you while you are showering.

c) You prefer not to have a shower. You might wait until late in the evening when everyone is in bed.

d) … ?

Situation 3: You care a lot for the environment and want to show it.

a) You keep sorting the rubbish/waste in the kitchen and explain how important it is for the environment!

b) You secretly take the plastic / glass bottles with you and look for a bin on the street.

c) You do nothing. It is not your problem.

d) …?

Situation 4: You are alone in a shopping centre. Your host family has arranged a meeting place and time with you, but no one is there!

a) You panic and call the teacher right away! Or even your parents...

b) You decide to wait another 15 minutes. They just aren't as punctual as you or had to wait at a checkout.

c) You are desperate. You must have got the time/place wrong! You think they will be angry with you....

d) …

Situation 5: The host mother has been cooking a speciality all morning. You want to make her happy and fill up the plate. Unfortunately, you soon realise that you don't like it at all!

a) After 2 forks you say you don't like it and leave everything. You are honest.

b) You eat very slowly and blush, but you don't say anything. You hope that you can secretly throw it all away later.

c) You know it was wrong to take so much without tasting it first. You force yourself to eat up... with a smile!

d) … ?

Situation 6: You go out with your exchange partner and his friends. They talk fast and don't seem to care about you.

a) You get so bored. You ask the partner to take you home and make up an excuse.

b) You try to talk to them, even if you make mistakes in the foreign language. They seem to be nice.

c) You get angry and say it out loud to your partner.

d) …?

Situation 7: You had imagined everything differently and better. You find the house untidy. Your parents work and don't have time to do anything with you. Your partner must do his/ her homework or has activities you don't like.

a) You stay in your room for hours playing with your mobile phone or calling your German friends.

b) You think positively and hope that the week will pass quickly. Maybe you will go to the activities after all.

c) You clean the house because you are bored. And you watch TV.

d) … ?

Discuss

What would be the worst situation for you?

How should you behave abroad with a foreign family, in your opinion?

What can you do if you feel homesick?