Cards: Cultural Conflict Scenarios

Annex 24 · Module 7: Cultural Differences

Print and cut out. Work in groups of three: two students play peers in conflict, one acts as mediator. The mediator practices validating identity-based emotions, avoiding stereotypes, and shifting focus to shared needs. Rotate roles after each round.

1. “Eye Contact = Respect?”

Aisha: avoids direct eye contact, cultural sign of respect. · Lili: believes eye contact means honesty and interest. · Conflict: Lili thinks Aisha is ignoring her and hiding something. · Mediator focus: clarify different meanings of respect in communication.

2. “He Is So Loud!”

Marco: expressive, gestures a lot, passionate voice. · Erik: quiet, finds loud speech aggressive. · Conflict: Erik feels attacked when Marco speaks loudly, even when he’s excited. · Mediator focus: help separate emotions from communication style.

3. “Don’t Make Fun of My Family!”

Sara: brings homemade traditional food. · Noel: jokes about it being “strange”. · Conflict: Sara feels her culture is being disrespected. · Mediator focus: support identity safety and respectful curiosity.

4. “Why Doesn’t He Speak?”

Kenji: needs more time to think before responding. · Bence: quick speaker, interrupts without intent to harm. · Conflict: Bence assumes Kenji is “not interested”. · Mediator focus: normalize pace differences in dialogue.

5. “Private or Public?”

Mira: shares her achievements proudly (family encourages it). · Ádám: prefers modesty, hates showing off. · Conflict: Ádám calls Mira a “show-off”, and she feels judged. · Mediator focus: explore different value systems (modesty vs. pride).

6. “Online Rules vs. Real-Life Rules”

Tomi: uses sarcasm and emojis like in gamer culture. · Anna: takes messages literally. · Conflict: Anna feels mocked by messages Tomi meant as friendly. · Mediator focus: clarify intent vs. impact online.

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