

Cities etiquette quiz

<http://www.economist.com/diversions/quiz.cfm/citiesetiquettequiz>

1. Maintaining your *bella figura*—showing your best face—matters when doing business in Milan. This extends to:

- a. Being imaginative about your salary (double it) and your position (promote yourself one rung up the ladder)
- b. Mildly putting down your rivals whenever you get the chance
- c. Wearing a two-piece suit, even for casual drinks at a bar
- d. Never apologising for being late or failing to return a phone call or e-mail

2. How should you greet a business colleague in Singapore?

- a. By bowing politely
- b. Shake hands, but more softly and for longer than in the West
- c. With a hug
- d. With a single flower (though not a pink one)

3. At some point during a stay in Berlin, you'll probably have to drink alcohol. When doing this it's important to remember:

- a. Not to drink until everyone has raised glasses together
- b. To drain your glass (or risk insulting your host)
- c. To toast the most senior person present
- d. Not to drink spirits before dinner, unless you want everyone to think you are an alcoholic

4. How important is the social element to deal-making in Mexico City?

- a. Essential. Work on developing a good relationship with an associate before expecting anything else
- b. Not very. A good grasp of Spanish is much more useful
- c. Helpful. A few trips to the "table dance" (strip club) will break down barriers
- d. Not at all. Mexicans are very private and will regard any questions about their family or close friends as prying

5. At a meeting in Tokyo, a contact presents you with his *meishi* or business card. What do you do?

- a. Pass the card to any colleagues present before pocketing it
- b. Study it hard and then give it back to its owner (the card will be returned to you on parting)
- c. Put it in the breast/hip pocket of your jacket (never your trouser pocket)
- d. Leave the card in front of you (putting it away is a signal that the meeting is over)

6. Is a business trip to Buenos Aires in November a good or bad idea, and why?

- a. Good. A survey of Argentine businessmen found that 60% thought November the best month for making deals
- b. Bad. It's the height of summer and the whole city will have shut down
- c. Good. The polo season will be in full swing and everyone will be in town
- d. Bad. Business owners will be rushing to complete their tax returns

7. When visiting a London pub, you'd be advised not to:

- a. Sit down, unless you are female (it's considered bad manners)
- b. Buy a round of drinks (tight-fisted Brits prefer everyone to buy their own)
- c. Order a glass of the house red or white wine, unless you like drinking vinegar
- d. Smoke. It's now illegal in most pubs and restaurants

8. In Paris, kissing someone three times when greeting him or her is:

- a. A signal that you are gay
- b. Perfectly acceptable if he or she is more than an acquaintance
- c. Considered a vulgar habit of the *Midi* (France's southern region)
- d. Acceptable if that person is female, but otherwise not

9. Attending a meeting in Dubai wearing a *dish-dasha* (a crisp white ankle-length shift) and *gutra* (head cloth) is likely to:

- a. Draw criticism, as it is illegal for foreigners to wear traditional Muslim clothing
- b. Win you praise and respect for adhering to local custom
- c. Confuse everyone present, as these items are worn only by the ruling al-Maktoum family
- d. Have no effect: nobody cares who wears what in Dubai anymore

10. You'd be well advised to avoid presenting clocks as gifts in Hong Kong—they are thought to signify death. Also, steer well clear of:

- a. Wine. Most Hong Kongers prefer whisky or beer
- b. Biscuits, unless you think the recipient needs to shed a few pounds
- c. Red flowers, which imply sexual attraction
- d. Blankets, which are believed to cause a decline in prosperity