

Intermediate – Respect Another Person’s Personal Space

A. **Lauren** lives in North America. She has met a new girl from Greece called Demi. Demi has just started at the school, and she’s cool. However, Lauren thinks she’s a bit strange because she likes to hold hands, and when she comes round, she likes to sit close and tries to hug Lauren.

Demi has moved to North America. She’s finding it a little bit difficult. She has met a girl called Lauren. She likes her, and they have fun, but she isn’t sure Lauren likes her back because she seems a bit unfriendly.

What do you suggest they do?

B. **Martinos** is on holiday with Masaki and his family. They’ve visited Tokyo, and they’re currently visiting Kyoto. Martinos was very uncomfortable when they got on the metro in Tokyo. He thought the people were rude, and the train was really crowded. Why didn’t they just wait for the next train? Now, in Kyoto, there are so many people at the temple. He can’t understand why they’ve decided to visit it on such a busy day because there are just too many people!

Masaki’s friend Martinos is visiting Japan. Martinos is behaving very strangely, and Masaki doesn’t understand why. Martinos comes from a small town in Denmark, and it’s very different to a big city in Japan. There are many more people in Japan, and most people go on holiday at the same time, which makes the most popular places crowded.

C. **Toby** is going to stay with a South American family on an exchange trip. His host family have met him at the airport. Toby is finding it very strange because all the members of the family, including the dad, have kissed him on the cheek, and he’s never met any of them before. Apparently, he’s going to share a room with Paco, the boy in the family who’s his own age.

Paco is waiting at the airport for Toby, an English exchange student. His mom has told him to be very friendly and make Toby feel welcome. In South America, it’s normal to kiss someone on the cheeks, but Paco’s first impression is that Toby seems a bit uncomfortable.

Reflection Point

Different people have different ideas about personal space. Learning to protect your own space and respect other people’s space can help your interactions with others.