



Five College Center for the Study of World Languages

### Conversation Preparation Guides

**Title: Visiting a Friend's Home**

**Topic: Social Interactions**

**Level: Novice-Intermediate**

### Practice on Your Own

Imagine you are studying or living in a country where the language is spoken. You go to visit a friend at her/his home.

- What do you know about etiquette for visiting homes in this country? For example:
  - Is it common to drop by a friend's house, or should you wait for an invitation?
  - If you are dropping by, should you avoid doing so at mealtimes?
  - If your friend invites you to come over at 5:00pm, will she/he expect you to show up right at 5:00, or at 5:30, 6:00, or later?
  - Should you bring a gift, such as chocolates, wine, flowers, etc.?
  - Do people usually entertain inside the house, in a courtyard, or on the sidewalk in front of the house?
  - Should you remove your shoes when entering the house?
  - How should you greet your friend and her/his family (older relatives and younger ones)?
  - Is it typical to offer food or drinks to guests?
  - If you are offered food or a drink, should you accept right away, or is it polite to refuse the first time you are asked?
  - If food is served, should you eat it all or should you leave a little?
  - How can you politely say goodbye or good night to your friend and her/his family?

If your textbook does not have much information, do some research online or ask your conversation partner.

- Practice greetings, introductions, partings, accepting/refusing food or drinks, appropriate small talk, etc. to prepare before the conversation session.

### Practice in Conversation Session

- To warm up, tell your conversation partner and fellow students where you are studying or living and how you know the friend that you will be visiting (from school/from work/etc.).
- Be prepared to role play visiting your friend's home. Your conversation partner and fellow students will play your friend and her/his family. (Depending on how many people are in the conversation group, some people may need to play multiple roles.) Greet each person in a culturally appropriate way and role play the situation according to the culture of that country.

Online at: [langmedia.fivecolleges.edu](http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu)

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- How is visiting someone's home in that country different from in the U.S.?