

## **Personal Interactions in Ukraine and the U.S.**

### **Russian transcript:**

Да, украинские люди очень отличаются от американских. Допустим, если ты не знаешь кого-то или просто встретил кого-то на улице, люди не кажутся тебе такими вежливыми, они тебе никогда не улыбнутся и не скажут тебе привет. Даже только въезжая на Украину, в аэропорту ты уже увидишь разницу – тебе в паспортном столе никто не скажет: «Привет! Как дела? Хорошо прилетела?» Тебе кажется, что люди такие грубые здесь, невежливые... но также в магазине тебе могут накричать или, если ты стоишь в очереди, кто-то может грубо влезть перед тобой. Но это только взгляд со стороны.

Если ты, конечно, познакомишься с человеком... и он окажется совершенно другим. Если придешь в гости, тебя обязательно накормят, напоят тебя; очень дружелюбные и поддержат тебя в трудную минуту, если тебе нужно это.

### **English translation:**

Ukrainian people are very different from Americans. Let's say, if you [as an American in Ukraine] don't know somebody and just walk by somebody on the street, people will not seem very polite to you. They will never smile at you or say hi. Even when you are just arriving to Ukraine, at the airport you will notice the difference – at immigration nobody will ever say to you: "Hi! How are you? Did you have a nice flight?" You will think that people are very rude and impolite there. Even at a store, someone might yell at you, or if you are standing in line, someone might rudely cut the line in front of you. However, this is just a view from outside.

If you get to know a person, he will appear totally different. If you come to visit [his house], he will feed you, give you a drink; [people] are very friendly and will support you in difficult times, when you really need it.

**About CultureTalk:** CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.