

B.2 Dealing with stereotypes.



Read your text and try to remember as much information as you can. And remember, the text is not a real description of the continent, but different cultural stereotypes!

Cultural stereotypes about Africa

The African continent has lots of unknown, wild and **far-off** territories, where lots of different people from very different countries live: the African people. Next, you will find some stereotypes that **have spread** throughout the whole world about the African people.

African people are very friendly people who have black skin, black eyes and black curly hair. They live in tiny **huts** in rural villages or tribes and usually wear **skimpy** clothes.

These people are so lazy that they do not work, but they have to **hunt** to survive.

African people live in **underdeveloped** countries that are still very **backward** in comparison to Western countries. In those countries, people **live in abject poverty** that's why African people usually **feel obliged** to emigrate.



With regard to the main features of African people, just say that they are seen as cannibal, savage and uncivilized people. Due to poverty already mentioned, they all are uncultured, ignorant and **illiterate**.

African people do not usually go to hospitals, they prefer going to **folk healers** because they are a very superstitious and religious people.

All African people are genetically good at athletics and basketball.

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Cultural stereotypes about America

There are four different stereotypes that can mainly be distinguished in America.

Native Americans, or American Indians, are **acutely aware** of the environment. They are also a very spiritual and **wise** people, who strongly believe in the power of the Mother Nature, such as *Mayan people*. All American Indians have extraordinary **skills** in hunting and **tracking**.



Latin Americans take life easy and all they can dance *salsa*. All Latin American families use to have many children. Latin men are very sexist and Latin women like wearing provocative clothes.

Black Americans, or Afro-Americans, were seen as a **naïve**, superstitious and ignorant people in the early 20th century. Nowadays, although they are still seen as a poor, lazy and very religious community, Afro-Americans are very good at athletics and music, such as soul music.



White Americans, especially in the United States of America (USA), are very arrogant and superficial people, who only think on money. All they are quite ignorant and have very little culture. White Americans usually eat fast food, such as burger and chips, and do not have a great **sense of fashion**.

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Cultural stereotypes about Asia



There are some stereotypes on Asian or Asiatic people that are very common around the world. For example, the main ones is that they are always eating rice, and that they all have almond-shaped eyes. But there are some others, too.

In general, Asian people are very hard-working people, but they are not very clean. All they are the best at martial arts and have a great **command** of new technologies. Asiatic people do not like politics at all and shout when speaking.

In the field of education, Asian children and teenagers are very studious and educated. They are very smart and talented, particularly with mathematics, subject in which they get the highest marks.

As regards family and home, Asian people are one of the most respectful communities with traditions and the **elders**. In some South Asian countries, such as India, people still maintain strictly traditional gender roles at home and they usually adopt a very **chauvinist** attitude towards women.

As regards tourism and **road safety education**, there are two stereotypes to remember about Asiatic people: they always have a camera hanging on their neck when doing tourism and they are poor drivers who **hold up traffic** or cause accidents, especially the East Asians.



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Cultural stereotypes about Europe

There are some different stereotypes that can be distinguished in Europe.

The Dutch, for instance, are all tall and have blonde hair and blue eyes. In Europe, they are considered as one of the most liberal communities.

The English, on the other hand, **have a reputation** for being the most well-educated and **gentlemanly**. Usually you can find them drinking tea at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, instead of a cup of coffee.

German people are seen as very organized, strong and **unaffectionate** in their relationships. They spend the whole day eating their typical *Würstchen* or *Bratwurst*.



Italians only eat pizza and pasta and usually work as car manufacturers. Italian men, without doubt, are the most womanizer. Women find them very nice people!

The French, for example, are considered as the most romantic in the whole continent, but at the same time they can be very rude with tourists. They love eating all kind of cheeses and usually spend their free time cooking.

In Spain, people are more vitalistic and are always out partying, because of the good weather. They are very unpunctual, though. They always eat *paella* and, generally, like *flamenco* and bullfighting. Regarding sports, it is said that Catalans are good at basketball.

