

WHAT IN THE WORLD?!!

Read the situation below and analyze what is going on. What is everyone feeling and why? WHAT ARE THE UNWRITTEN RULES?

(1)

A young man attending college for the first time in America is surprised by the freedom and “casual” atmosphere in the classroom. Students get up and leave, come and go out of the classroom whenever they want. During final exams, he has the flu. In the middle of one of his tests, he feels as if he is going to throw up, so he quickly leaves the room. In less than five minutes, he returns to the classroom to complete his test. The instructor scolds him and takes away his exam. The student is shocked.

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(2)

An American International Student Advisor works with international students at a university on a daily basis. She is overwhelmed by all the work she has to do, but she also has to be available for “walk by” service all day long. She loves her students dearly, but is slightly annoyed every time one of them comes to the door and says, “Are you busy?”

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(3)

An international student is invited to dinner by his American roommate and the American parents. The international student is really excited and honored to be included in the family outing. At the end of the meal the parents tell the international student that he owes \$10.00 for his dinner.

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(4)

An American who teaches English as a Second Language to international students has a very affectionate way of interacting with people. She calls everyone sweetie and honey no matter what the student or coworker's age. One of her students drops by her office often just to talk. She knows that he misses home and needs a friend. One time as he is leaving, she says, "Thanks for stopping by sweetie." And he responds, "I'll see you tomorrow honey."

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(5)

An American Peace Corps volunteer is volunteering on the island of Pohnpei, Micronesia where everyone is expected to remove his/her flip flops or tennis shoes before entering the house. He doesn't mind taking off his flip flops as he enters the home because he understands that it shows respect. Besides, he sees the benefit of keeping the house cleaner. This is a good practice since you have to sit on the floor and meals are even served on the floor. Upon leaving the home, he cannot find his flip flops in the pile outside the door. Someone explains that his flip flops have been "borrowed" and that they will come back momentarily. The Pohnpeians suggest that he uses someone else's and he refuses.

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Two Americans are on a dinner date. The young woman is really impressed with her date. The man has on a suit and is very polite and well-mannered when speaking to the young woman. But as they begin to eat, he makes noise with his mouth and holds his fork like he is shoveling dirt.

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A newly arrived volunteer is working in another country and has been assigned to be the advisor for the student government organization at the high school along with a local teacher who has been there for years. The new volunteer suggests that they meet on Saturday at 3:00 to discuss activities and plans for the student government. On Saturday, the volunteer waits for the other teacher at the appointed time and place, but finally leaves at 4:30. When she asks him about it on Monday, he tells her she should have known he meant “no” when he said “yes.”

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(8)

Roommates often have different habits. There are two young men who generally get along. But, there is one big difference causing some problems, but neither has openly expressed his opinion. The one young man is from an island, so he always removes his shoes before he enters the dormitory room. His roommate, an American, does not.

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(9)

There are two young ladies who met for the first time at college. They are roommates and immediately best friends. They share everything – clothes, drinks, snacks, computer – even money. Sara is from another country and has told Carla, who is from America, that she can use *anything* of hers she wants. Carla knows Sara is generous and doesn't mind, so she uses her shampoo, conditioner and makeup because they smell better and are a better quality. Sara has started acting differently towards Carla, criticizing her makeup and hair, but Carla doesn't know what to think or what she has done. Sara goes out and buys all new makeup, shampoo and conditioner and gives all her old make up to Carla since Carla likes it so much.

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Two college roommates get along great and enjoy many of the same TV shows; they have the similar tastes in music, food, and sports. They can't believe how much they are alike and how well they get along. They feel like brothers. They start buying their food and snacks together. They even finish each other's fast food if one gets full and can't finish his food. When they play basketball, they think nothing of sharing a water bottle. One day, one of the guys grabs the milk carton out of the refrigerator and starts chugging milk down from the container. His roommate tells him he needs to buy his own milk from now on.

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A baseball player is recruited from another country to play baseball in America. After awhile, the pitcher starts having trouble with his shoulder. Everyone in America is up-in-arms! "He pitched more in his country than he does here! How can that be?" He says his training was different in his country.

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An American is walking down a busy street when her 3-year-old sprints ahead of her...the mother yells after her daughter, telling her to stop, but the child doesn't listen. An African American turns to the child and in a booming voice says, "You get back to your mother right now!" The little girl turns and runs back to her mom.

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A mother is at a zoo with her children. There is another group of school children wearing name tags with some teachers observing the giraffes at the same time.

Another child belonging to the school group comes running over, falls and skids across the cement. He is wailing in pain and ignored at first and then told by one of the adults to shut up and stand up. The mother approaches the child and asks if he is ok or needs help. The adult that told him to shut-up asked the mother what she is doing. She explains that she was concerned about the child. The angry adult explains that she is the mother and can take care of her own son. The first mother apologizes for the misunderstanding. The angry mother of the hurt son threatens to beat up the concerned woman.