

The cultural  
awareness  
game

A hand with a textured, grey, stippled appearance holds a bright red rectangular sign. The sign has rounded corners and contains the text 'CULTURAL CALLING CARDS' in large, bold, white, sans-serif capital letters. The background of the entire image is a light beige color with a pattern of fine, radiating lines that create a subtle optical illusion effect.

**CULTURAL  
CALLING  
CARDS**

THEMA. ■

## DE AUTEUR

**JIM MORRIS** is a senior consultant for Relevance Learning. Jim lives and breathes culture: English by nationality, he lives in the Netherlands and works all over the world facilitating professional learning and development. He specialises in intercultural communication training programmes. Jim grew up in the UK, where he started his career, and lived for long periods in Australia and Canada. He has worked extensively throughout Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas, running workshops and delivering keynote speeches.

**JIM MORRIS** is een senior consultant voor Relevance Learning. Jim leeft en ademt cultuur: van oorsprong Engels, woont hij in Nederland en werkt over de hele wereld om professioneel leren en ontwikkeling te faciliteren. Hij is gespecialiseerd in interculturele communicatie trainingsprogramma's. Jim groeide op in het VK, waar hij zijn carrière begon, en woonde lange periodes in Australië en Canada. Hij heeft uitgebreid gewerkt in heel Europa, Azië, Afrika en de Amerika's, waarbij hij workshops heeft gegeven en keynote speeches heeft gehouden.



# Cultural Calling Cards

## PLAYING INSTRUCTIONS

We live and breathe our culture. It defines a large part of who we are. It shapes our values and beliefs. We are our culture; it is our CALLING CARD.

This is a game designed for multicultural groups. The idea is to learn about each other's culture by sharing information about your own culture and asking others about their culture. Nobody scores any points, and no one wins or loses.

***The only winner is cultural awareness itself.***

There are just two types of card in the pack. 'HOME' cards, showing a picture of a house, and 'AWAY' cards, showing a passport.

## GAME 1

1. Everybody in the group sits in a circle.
2. All the cards (HOME and AWAY) are shuffled together.
3. The first person in the circle (Player 1) takes the pack of cards with the text facing down.
4. Player 1 takes the top card and turns it over.
5. Player 1 CALLS OUT the question on the card so that everyone can hear it.

6. If it is a HOME card, the question is about a person's 'home' culture and Player 1 has to answer it from his or her own culture. If it is an AWAY card, Player 1 chooses another member of the group to answer. That person must answer the question based on their culture.
6. Player 1 then places the card at the bottom of the pack and hands the pack to the next person in the circle (Player 2).
7. Player 2 repeats the process, and this continues until the pack has gone round all the players in the group.
8. You can then continue to pass the pack around the circle for as long as you like. In fact, the longer the cards are called out and answered the more you will learn about each other's culture.

## GAME 2

In this version only the HOME cards are used. The rules are the same, but this time people only answer themselves about their HOME culture.

## GAME 3

In this version only the AWAY cards are used. The rules are the same, but this time you always choose other members of the group to answer questions about their culture.



Describe your first encounter with another culture.

*Beschrijf je eerste ontmoeting met een andere cultuur.*



In your culture, what is an acceptable way  
to approach your manager?

*Wat is in jouw cultuur een acceptabele manier  
om je leidinggevende te benaderen?*



Name three things you have in common with the person on your right, and three differences.

*Noem drie dingen die je gemeen hebt met de persoon rechts van je, en drie verschillen tussen jullie.*



Greet the person on your left as you would in your culture and in your native language. Would this be different if you were meeting the person for the first time?

*Groet de persoon links van je zoals je zou doen in  
jouw cultuur en moedertaal.*

*Zou je dit anders doen als dit jullie eerste ontmoeting was?*





How does your culture celebrate a birthday?

*Hoe viert jouw cultuur een verjaardag?*



Describe a traditional food from your culture.

*Beschrijf een traditioneel gerecht uit jouw cultuur.*



Show two hand gestures from your culture  
and explain their meaning.

*Laat twee handgebaren uit jouw cultuur zien  
en leg de betekenis ervan uit.*



What is customary to take as a gift if you are invited to a meal  
at the home of your employer?

*Wat is gebruikelijk om mee te nemen als je wordt uitgenodigd  
voor een maaltijd bij je werkgever thuis?*