

## **TRUE CARDS:**

### **Milk Bags in Canada**

In some parts of Canada, milk comes in bags. They are sold in central and eastern Canada, but not in western Canada. Three bags are sold together in a larger bag containing a total of 4 litres of milk. The bags are not sold individually, and are either not labeled at all or labeled with only the expiry date, the lot number and sometimes the type of milk contained in the bag.

### **The Italian “Squillo”**

A Squillo is a one-ring mobile phone call - the receiver of the call is not expected to answer. The phone buzzes once or twice, and all you see is the caller-id.

Depending on the context the “squillo” could mean many different things: “I miss you,” “I’ll be 10 minutes late,” “Yes, I got your message” or simply, “Yes.” It could be “Where are you,” “Call me back I’m out of credit,” or a thousand other variations.

### **Cycling in The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany**

Cycling in the Netherlands is a common and popular method of transport and recreation, accounting for 27% of *all* trips (urban and rural) nationwide, and up to 59% of all trips in its cities. The country is well equipped with cycle-paths and other segregated cycle facilities.

### **Siesta in Spain, Greece and Italy**

It is normal to sleep for anywhere from one to three hours during the afternoon in Spain and Greece (mainly in Athens). Siesta is also common in Italy (there called *riposo*), where museums, churches and shops close during siesta so that the owners can go home for a long lunch and perhaps a nap during the day’s hottest hours.

### **Haggling**

Common in many countries - A kind of bargaining in which the buyer of an item may argue with the seller in regard to price. The process can take some time, and the original listed price might not be what the seller actually expects to receive – they may price something higher, expecting to be “haggled” to a lower cost.

### **Face masks in China**

Pollution is bad enough in China that people often wear masks over their faces to protect themselves from it. An industry has developed around designing and selling fashionable masks.

### **Tipping in The United States**

Tipping is a widely practiced social custom in the United States. In restaurants, a gratuity of 15% to 20% of the amount of a customer’s check is customary when good service is provided. Tips are also generally given for services provided in golf courses, casino, hotels, food delivery, taxis, and salons.

### **Driving on the left in Australia, The U.K., India and other countries.**

In many places people drive on the left side of the road, with the steering wheel being on the right side of the car. The reasons for this aren’t known, but some historians believed that ancient travellers on horseback generally rode on the left side of the road. Because more people are right-handed, a horseman would therefore be able to hold the reins with his left hand and keep his right hand free—to offer in friendship to passing riders or to defend himself with a sword.

**Colombian children learn there are five continents, not seven.**

The specifics vary from nation to nation, but one popular interpretation lumps North and South America together as one continent called "America" and counts Europe and Asia together as "Eurasia."

**Showing your palms in Greece**

We often use this gesture to say "stop." In Greece, keep your palms to yourself. Holding your palms out towards a person is a highly insulting gesture. This gesture is said to be a remnant of Byzantine times, when people could taunt criminals by smearing their faces with excrement.

**FALSE CARDS:**

**A single male passenger should sit in the front seat in Australia.**

In Australia a male passenger should always sit in the front seat of a car when travelling with a group. This practice originated in the tradition of a male guard riding on the front of the coaches of family to protect them from notorious "highwaymen" (criminals who would steal from wealthy people who were traveling).

**The French usually serve dinner at 5pm**

During the second world war, it became necessary to eat dinner earlier as most people needed to be indoors after 7pm to avoid danger and to meet the curfew imposed by NAZI soldiers. This practice has continued through to the present day.

**In Brazil, purple flowers are a symbol of friendship.**

If you want to give somebody flowers in Brazil, they should be purple if you want to show friendship. Other colors, especially white, are typically used at funerals and it is therefore rude to give them as gifts.

**Wearing gloves in Russia when shaking hands is considered polite.**

It is so cold in Russia during the winter that it is considered impolite to make somebody remove his/her gloves for whatever reason. Expecting people to do so when greeting them is extremely rude, and they will usually refuse to shake hands like this.