

Read this text about culture shock and then prepare a 3-4 minute oral talk in answer to the question below, using the text as a starting point. **You can use ideas from the text but do not quote sentences or give a summary of the article.** During the talk you may use the notes you have made but you are not allowed to read them out. You will have 10 minutes to prepare.

Question: **Why do you think living in a different culture can be difficult?**

## **Culture Shock**

In addition to the challenge of a different academic system, you will also be facing the unsettling experience of living in a new culture. At first, this will probably be difficult, and you may have the common experience of anyone who moves into a new culture: culture shock.

When you first arrive in the United States, you will probably feel exhilarated and excited at the prospect of new challenges and opportunities. The first phase of living in a new culture soon wears off, however, after encountering the frustration of settling into a system in which even the simplest procedures are unfamiliar. Getting a bus, buying groceries, even greeting friends, can be challenging when the rules are uncertain. Even more bewildering are the cultural rules – the meanings of phrases, gestures and actions, which may be totally contrary to the meanings that these convey in your own culture.