

Case Study: Joint dinner



Brief description	Case study in which several people of different nationalities come together for dinner and different eating habits are revealed.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reflecting on when a situation is intercultural• Sensitisation to characteristics of interculturality
Time	Approx. 45-60 min.
Method	Culturally unspecific; Distributive/instructive
Material	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Case study
Implementation	<p>The trainer divides the participants into small groups. They discuss the case study and answer the following guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To what extent would you classify the meeting as an intercultural encounter?• Imagine that the people from the case study would meet again in about 14 days. To what extent would you classify another meeting as an intercultural encounter? <p>Evaluation in plenary: The participants present their results. The trainer moderates the presentation and summarises the core results.</p>
Notes	n/a
Source	Annika Schmidt/ Andrea Voigt



Task

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“Just yesterday we had a very nice evening where Naveen showed us how to cook Indian food according to his mother's recipe, Yuan bought Chinese dumplings at the supermarket to make them tasty for us and we talked about cultural differences, our languages (apparently my two mother tongues, German and Polish, sometimes sound very funny to others) and many other things. And it is so interesting to see how a simple process like eating can make us very different and yet bring us together. I set the table and without really thinking about it, I put down a plate and a spoon for each of us. While Nathan and I seem to have a very identical way of eating and happily reached for the spoon, Yuan quickly picked up her chopsticks and enjoyed the food as she slurped and smacked. Naveen ignored the spoon and ate with his hands. When asked about it, he said they liked to eat like this at home. It was one of the best evenings since I have been here and I look forward to many more.”

Read the case study and discuss the following questions:

1. To what extent would you classify the meeting as an intercultural encounter? Give reasons for your answer.
2. Imagine that the people from the case study meet again in about 14 days. To what extent would you classify another meeting as an intercultural encounter? Justify your answer.

Source: Annika Schmidt/Andrea Voigt