Learning Review: Case Study – With shoes or without?

Brief description	Case study in which the participants handle the wearing of street shoes at home differently.
Goals	 Participants develop their understanding of the relationship between culture and social behaviour. The participants adopt different perspectives in order to analyze the influence of cultural imprints on individual behaviour patterns. The participants develop constructive approaches to solutions.
Time	• 60 min.
Method	Culturally nonspecificDistributive/instructive
Material	Case Study
Implementation	• n/a
Notes	• n/a
Source	Andrea Voigt





Task

With shoes or without?

Please read the case study and answer the questions in writing:

Gudrun and her husband also wear their street shoes in their apartment. Gudrun's sister Anna and her family do the same - with one exception: When Anna's husband's family comes to visit, there are slippers in the hallway for the family to wear during their visit. Anna, Gudrun and their husbands continue to wear their street shoes.

For some time now, Gudrun has been meeting with some friends to sing together. She wears her shoes on these evenings as well, until she notices at one meeting that everyone else is either wearing only socks or slippers provided by the hostess. Gudrun notices that one friend takes a long time to change her shoes.

She wonders if she should also wear slippers at future singing evenings.

- 1. In your opinion, what are the reasons of the people who wear their shoes also at home? What are the reasons of the people who wear slippers?
- 2. Which cultural imprints do you think influence this individual decision?
- 3. What constructive solutions could the participants develop? In other words, what should and could Gudrun do when she meets her friends? And what could her friends do when they see Gudrun wearing street shoes while singing together?
- 4. How do you handle this yourself? When and where do you wear street shoes and when and where do you wear slippers? What cultural influences have shaped your decision?

Source: Andrea Voigt

