



WHY WE SHAKE HANDS

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PDF 2: Speaking & Role-Play Activities

Activity 1: Quick Discussion (Pair Work)

Talk with your partner:

- If you meet a famous person, do you shake their hand or take a **selfie**?
- How do people usually greet each other in your country?
- Do you prefer handshakes, bows, hugs, or kisses on the cheek?
- Have you ever shaken hands with someone from another country?

Activity 2: Role-Play – Greeting Situations

Choose a situation and act it out:

1. Job Interview

You are meeting the interviewer for the first time. Greet them properly.

2. Ancient Greece

You are two Greek warriors. Shake hands and explain why you are doing it.

3. Cultural Mix-up

You are from a country where people bow. Your partner wants to shake hands. What happens?

4. First Meeting at University

You meet a new classmate from another country. Greet each other and introduce yourselves.

Activity 3: Greeting Around the World

In groups, discuss and present:

- How do people greet in Japan, France, New Zealand, and your country?
- What is the best way to greet someone when you are not sure about their culture?

Activity 4: “The Perfect Handshake” Game

Practice giving different types of handshakes (firm, weak, too strong, perfect) and ask your partner for feedback.

Extension Activity (Homework)

Write 4–6 lines about an awkward or funny greeting moment you had (real or imaginary).
