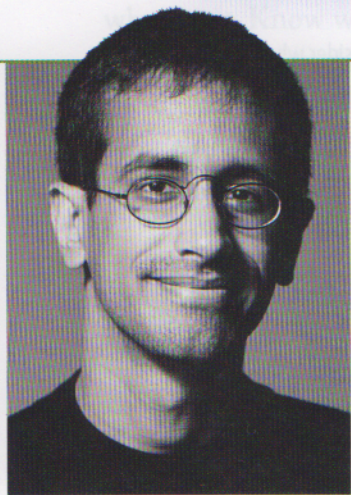


Pardon Me, I'm CANADIAN



Written by Dominic Ali

Dominic Ali grew up in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and has lived in Vancouver, B.C., Kingston, Jamaica, and Port-of-Spain, Trinidad. He routinely embarrasses himself when travelling. His writing has appeared in magazines such as *Azure*, *Vancouver*, and *Dwell*, while his radio documentaries have been broadcast on CBC Radio's pop culture show *Definitely Not the Opera* and in the U.S. on *Studio 360*. He is the author of the children's information book *Media Madness: An Insider's Guide to Media*. When not writing, he can often be found annoying his neighbours with his electric guitar at concert-level volumes.

Before

Identify three perceived cultural characteristics or traits of Canadians. Do not include habits or interests—only qualities.

During

1. As you read, be aware of how tone and diction used by the author affects your understanding of his message.
2. As you read, list the customs of the countries mentioned. What value(s) do these customs all have in common?

Tips

tone: the attitude that runs through an entire text. This may include the writer's attitude toward the subject and/or the audience.

diction: the particular words or phrases chosen to express an idea. In "Pardon Me, I'm Canadian", the author uses the term 'Canucks' instead of *Canadian* to give an informal feel to the piece.

Hate when somebody bumps into you and doesn't say, "Excuse me"? Loathe boors who ignore "please be quiet" signs and talk loudly on their cell phones? Despise people who burp at the dinner table without apologizing?

Me too.

Canadians enjoy a global reputation for being polite, both to each other and to others when travelling. But breaches of etiquette happen everywhere. And they're more likely to take place when you're travelling to a distant city or to a foreign country.

Trust me. I know. As a Canadian who does his best to be polite, I've come across as an obnoxious jerk in different countries. In the hopes of saving you any