

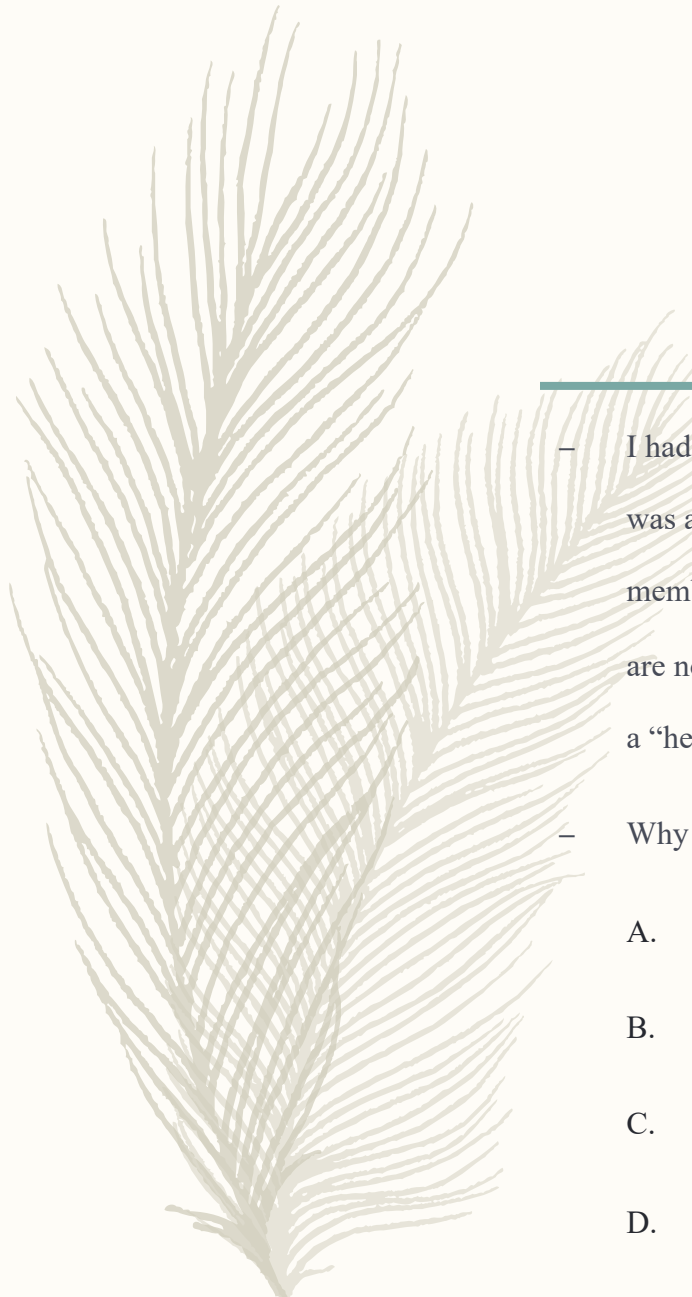
Cultural Assimilator Scenario Psych 303

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Scenario Example

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- I had lived in Germany for many years where family and affection are very important concepts. When I moved to the United States I was a little taken back at how much time families actually spent together (very little) and how they greeted each other, family members and close friends a like. Upon meeting new people I would do a general hand shake with a kiss to one cheek (for those who are not close) and this always seemed to shock people because the most typical reactions I would get were either a slight pull away or a “hey what’s that for?”.
 - Why might I have gotten the reactions I did?
 - A. The Americans were scared that I was going to spread germs around
 - B. Cultural greeting differences caused a discourse between the people and myself
 - C. The Americans were offended that I had kissed their cheek without having a romantic interest in them
 - D. The Americans were under the impression that a solitary handshake was all that they needed since I was not a close enough friend to receive a hug.

- If you chose option (A) you would be wrong. Being wherry of germs – regardless of culture – is more of a personal preference than anything anything culturally related.
- If you chose option (B) you would be correct. It was often enough that I would forget what country I was in and would go for my typical greeting rather than an isolated handshake. In Germany its one cheek for a new friend and two for those closest to you such as best friends and family members.
- If you chose option (C) you would be wrong. Many people in America have actions of greeting that can be taken romantically or not such as hugging one another.
- If you chose option (D) you would be wrong. Although this answer was partially true and most people just shake hands upon meeting it wasn't necessarily the reason why they were shocked I went in for their cheek.

Answer Feedback.

