

Business culture in your country- Adverbs of frequency expressions discuss and agree

Use frequency expressions like “Once or twice a year” and “Almost never” to make general statements about business culture in your country. You can also make statements about smaller groups of people such as middle managers, directors or male office workers.

Possible topics

Arguing with managers

Asking for pay rises

Attending meetings and saying nothing

Attention to detail

Being direct (= say exactly what they mean)

Being indirect/ Be diplomatic

Bodily contact (shaking hands, hugs, patting on the back, etc)

Bowing

Brainstorming in meetings

Bullying

Business card holder

Celebrating employees' birthdays

Chatting at the beginning of business meetings

Closing down group companies which are unsuccessful

Company structures (flat, hierarchical, etc)

Continuous improvement

Criticising other employees

Dealing with unnecessary staff

Decision making (making decisions before meetings, in meetings, by consensus, etc)

Demoting people

Doing overtime

Doing unpaid overtime

Downsizing

Drinking down in one

Drinks in meetings

Early retirement

Efficiency
Employing inexperienced graduate recruits
Employing people who already have experience
Expanding into many unconnected kinds of business
Eye contact
Figurehead managers
Finishing conversations
Firing people (= Sacking people = Dismissing people)
First names
Getting drunk
Getting stressed
Giving gifts to business contacts
Giving reasons when apologising/ dealing with complaints
Going drinking with clients
Going drinking with colleagues
Going off topic in meetings
Going on holiday together
Going over your boss's head
Going to colleagues' houses for dinner
Golf
Having close relationships with the government
Humour
Independent directors
Interrupting/ Talking over each other
Job titles (specific or not, etc)
Leaders (personality, background, etc)
Making employees take language exams (TOEIC etc)
Management track
MBAs
Negotiating your own pay
Networking

Overtime (paid, unpaid, amount, etc)
Performance-related pay
Position of women
Public holidays
Putting short-term profit first
Quitting (over matters of principle, to set up your own start-up, etc)
Reading business books
Retirement
Sending employees to work for different group companies or suppliers
Seniority-based pay or promotion
Silence (thinking in silence, pauses between people speaking, etc)
Small talk (length, topics, situations, etc)
Snacks in meetings
Socialising with other employees' families
Starting meetings on time
Staying in one company for life
Taking holidays (taking all the available time)
Taking risks
Temp staff
Toasting
Trade unions
Training (on the job, outside, paid, subsidized, etc)
Unnecessary meetings
Voting
Whistleblowers
Working too hard
Work-life balance
Xmas or New Year parties

Homework

Write a ten-sentence description of business culture in your country for a foreign employee who is going to move to the office in your country, dealing with the most important topics.