

Welcome!

The webinar will begin shortly.

This webinar is being recorded and will be made available on our website after the session.

Good to know:

- 1. You are automatically muted – we cannot hear or see you!**
- 2. To ask a question or comment, use the chat feature! We'll be monitoring and responding to questions near the end.**



Culture Talk
Coffee Break
-Part 1-



**Weird? Or just
different?**

Presenters



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When encountering something foreign or new-to-you, what is your gut reaction?

- Do you think it's weird?
- Are you not sure what to think?
- Do you find yourself asking questions or wanting more information?
- Do you freeze?
- Do you go with the flow and hope it will make sense soon?



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Did you realize by watching this video that you held an assumption that you didn't realize you had? (For example, you did not realize you assumed that streets had names in every country?)

Weird, or just different?

How you frame something affects the way you think about it.

This is weird: This leads you to more easily assume that culture is weird and to look at it in a more negative light. You're not as likely to ask questions or seek to understand.

This is different than what I am used to: Encourages you to explore why you think it's different, if it is normal in that culture/location and just not in yours, and why you reacted the way you did. Leaves you more open-minded to learning and appreciating something, rather than writing it off.

Wait, is my culture "weird" too?

A good way to look at this is to first evaluate your own culture.

What are things that you do that other people might consider "weird" if they are from another culture?

Are there things that are common in your country or region that might be considered odd to someone from another place?

Are there things you do that may be considered "weird" even to those of your own culture?

Type some ideas in the chat feature!

U.S. Culture

Some examples:

- Tipping in the U.S. – when do you tip and how much?
- Portion sizes at restaurants
- Using Fahrenheit instead of Celsius
- Asking “How are you?” as a greeting, but not really caring about the answer
- Making small talk with strangers

Wait, what about other cultures?

Many cultures may value different things, and this can be shown in how they act or approach different situations.

For example – the concept of being on time for a social event:

- U.S. = you should be on time, if not a few minutes early
- Japan = if you are not early, you are already late
- Spain = event really starts an hour after we said it did

Wait, what about other cultures?

Did you ever think about how much your culture plays into what you think is “being on time”?

Imagine how you’d feel if you were in Spain and arrived at someone’s house 10 minutes early for them to be shocked and completely unprepared for your arrival?

On the other hand, imagine how someone from Spain feels in the U.S. when they get a bad reputation for “being late” when to them, they’re not late at all?

Different does not equal weird

Can you think of something you do differently than your roommate/family/best friend/significant other?

Doing things differently can cause some irritation or miscommunication, but usually can be resolved by asking yourself WHY you feel that way and addressing the root of the problem.

Instead of: "That's weird, why would you do that?" Or "That's the wrong way to do it."

Try: "Can you tell me why you do that?"

"I do it like this because _____, why do you do it like that?"

Applying this concept in everyday life

You don't have to travel the world and experience a brand new-to-you culture to shift your perspective from "weird" to "different"!

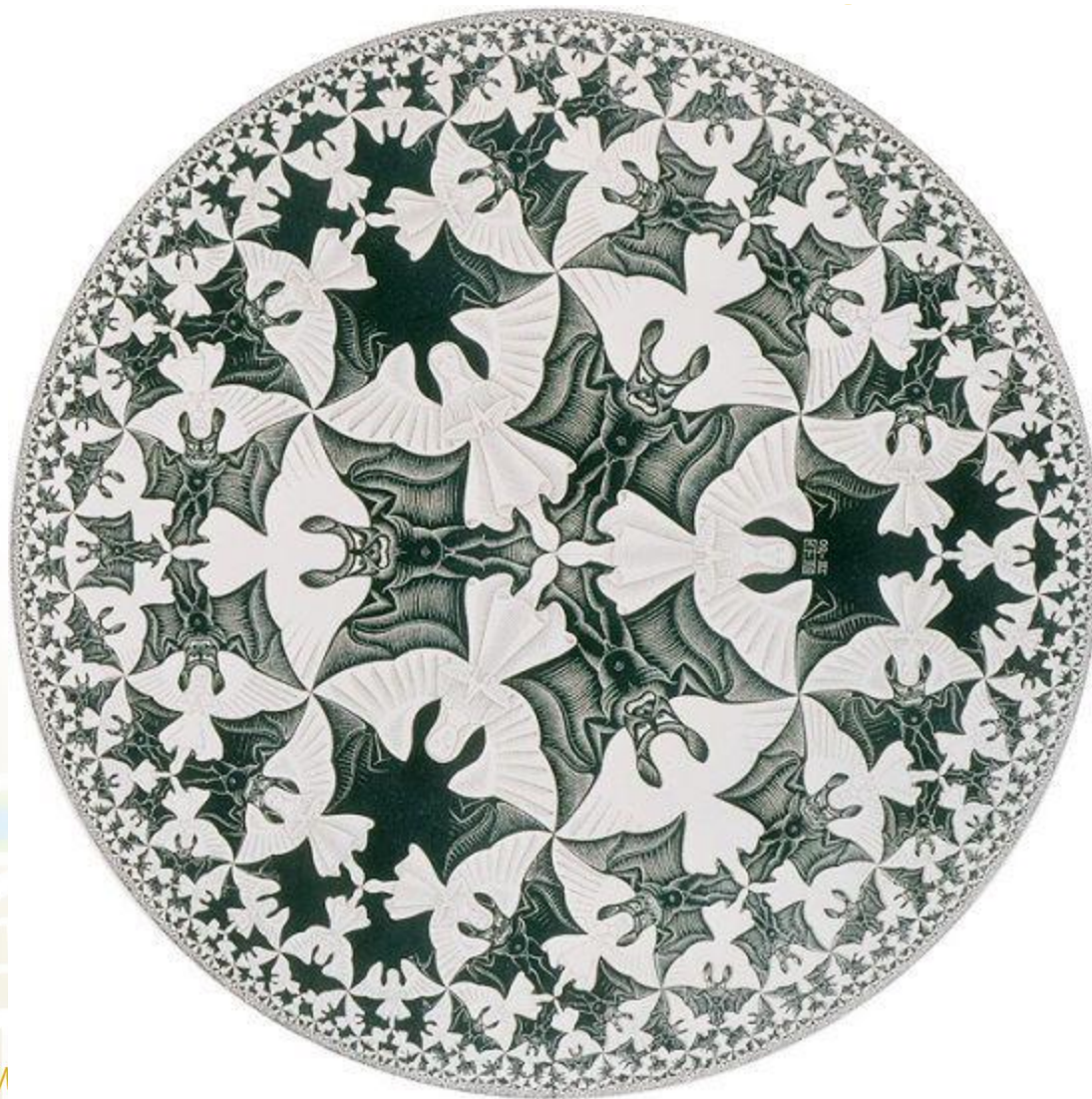
These concepts are just as useful for navigating almost any circumstance – put it to the test next time you find yourself thinking the way someone in your life is acting or doing something is "weird".

Of course, sometimes things truly are bizarre – but most of the time there's probably a simple explanation.

Perception – it's tricky

Many times how you perceive a situation can also contribute to if you think it's "weird" or cause you to have some type of judgment or bias on it.

For example, let's take a look at the image on the next slide:



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Perception – it's tricky

What did you see? Type it into comments!

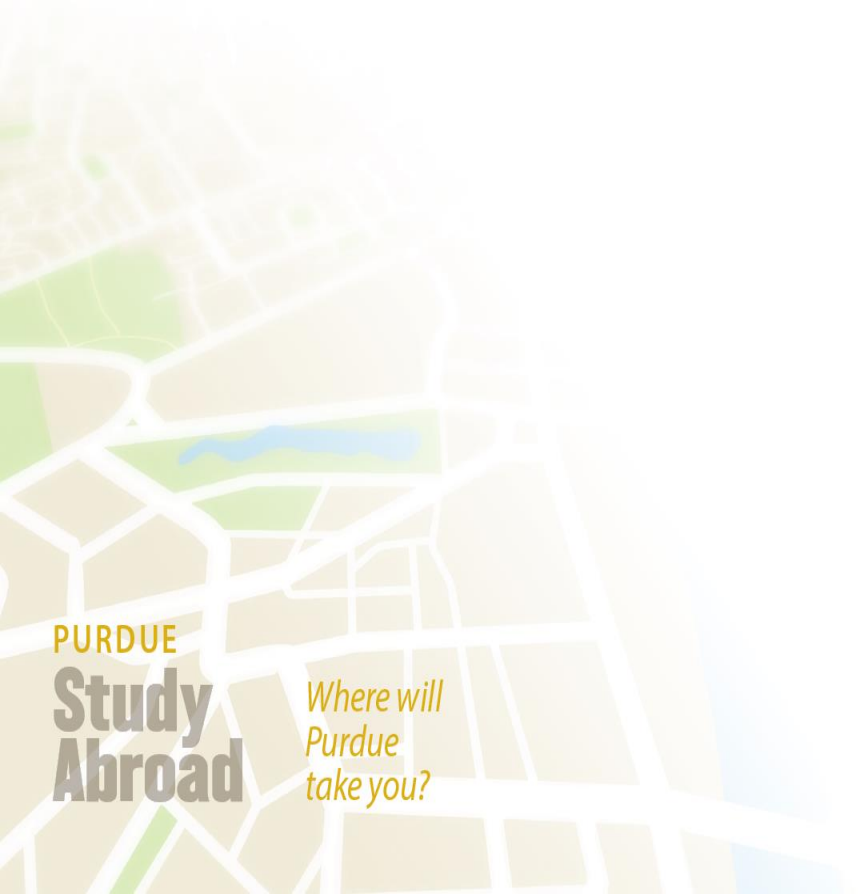
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Did you have trouble seeing more than one thing in this image?



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Wrapping Up

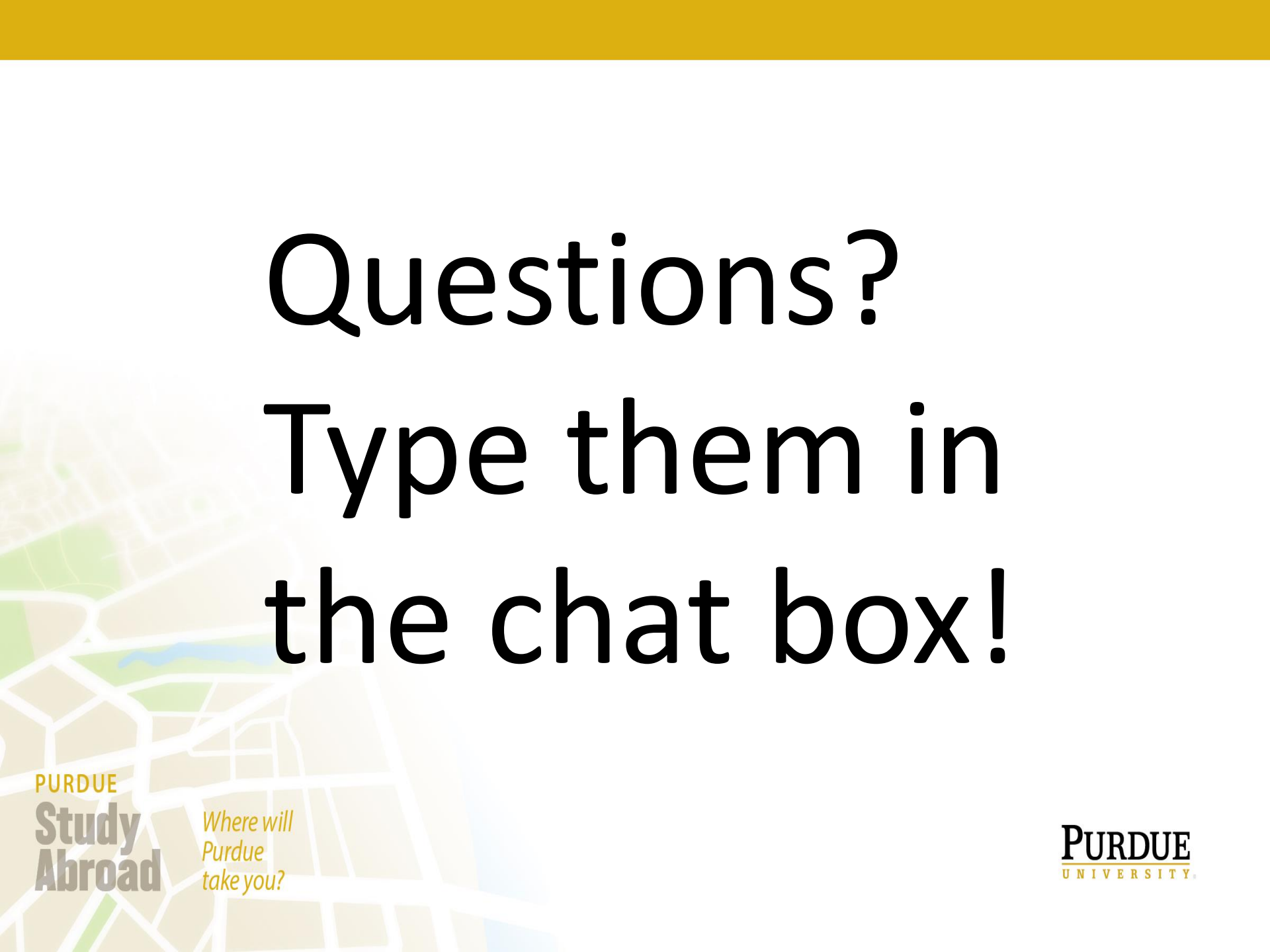
- If you find yourself thinking something is weird, try to shift your perspective!
- You will perceive things differently than others, and that is ok
- Be open to learning and seek to understand

Want more?

- Join us for more in the Culture Talk: Coffee Break series!
- In the next episodes, we'll break down different cultural dimensions and how they can help you start to understand different cultures.

Want more?

- Follow us @BoilersAbroad
- Keep an eye on our Calendar of Events
- Make a virtual appointment with an advisor

A faint, stylized map of the Purdue University campus is visible in the background, showing streets, green spaces, and a blue water feature. The map is rendered in light beige and green tones.

Questions?
Type them in
the chat box!

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