

Reading Comprehension

One of the most important considerations in building a house in Arab countries is *to guarantee* that the residents of the house can't see their *neighbors* from any part of the house, thus ensuring the privacy of the neighbors. When I visit the house of an Arabian friend, the standing position I will take next to the house should ensure that when the house is open I can't see the inside of the house. Furthermore, I will not go inside until my host signals me to do so by extending his right hand with his *palm* up saying 'come in'.

In every Arabian house there is a room for guest *gatherings*. Most of these rooms are for male visitors only. In some parts of the Arabian region men and women who are not directly *blood related* to each other or not married to each other don't mix.

The guest room is generally covered with Persian rugs and against the walls there are pillows to rest your back against. Attendants are seated in a circle to ensure that no one is facing someone else's back. Also, one should always remember the rule that the soles of feet should not point directly toward someone else.

Arabian culture *stresses* the importance of honoring guests and *pampering* them. The *host* will serve food in excessive quantities to ensure that every guest is fully satisfied. When Arabs receive gifts, it is a custom not to open them in front of the giver.

True or False

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|---|---|---|
| 1. Personal privacy is not a high priority in Arab countries. | T | F |
| 2. Guest rooms in Arab homes do not have chairs. | T | F |
| 3. Gifts must always be opened as soon as they are received. | T | F |
| 4. Visitors to Arab homes should wait in front of the door. | T | F |
| 5. When seated, Arabs are always careful to fold their legs. | T | F |
| 6. Visitors to Arab homes may walk in without permission. | T | F |
| 7. Discrimination, on the basis of sex, is very strong. | T | F |
| 8. Marriages take place only if the couple is blood related. | T | F |
| 9. Guests avoid seating in the middle of the guest room. | T | F |
| 10. Serving a lot of food is common in Arab countries. | T | F |

Match the following words with their definition

host	to make it certain that something will happen
stresses	looking after somebody very kindly
to guarantee	linked by a family relationship
pampering	people who live next to you
blood related	the underside of the foot
gatherings	someone who welcome visitors
neighbours	people gives importance to something
soles	meetings of a group of

Match the following words with their synonym

rugs	hand
gifts	cushions
rule	guests
custom	presents
attendants	donor
pillows	habit
giver	instruction
palm	carpets