



Belarus

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Sample Cards

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click to play





Which of these self-introductions would be most appropriate at a meeting in Belarus?

- A. Hello, I am Dr. Schmidt, head of the IT department.
- B. Hello, I am Harry Schmidt. I specialize in working with online communication, which is a job I really love.
- C. Hello, I'm Harry. I can do top notch work for you all when it comes to online communication.

Click on your choice





A. is preferable. At the outset Belarusians tend to present their formal title and social position rather than speaking of their specific activities, qualities or interests.

If you chose the best answer, keep this card. If not, discard it.





In Belarus a patronymic is:

- A. A favor done by a patron or boss for a subordinate.
- B. The name given a person because of the patron saint of the day on which he or she was born.
- C. A name that reflects one's father's name.

Click on your choice.





C. When a person speaks a full name it is usually said in this order: given name, patronymic, family name, e.g., Sergei Nikolaevich (son of Nikolas) Martynov (in Russian), or Alena Uladzimirawna (daughter of Uladzimir) Korshuk. (In Belarusian).

*If you chose the correct answer, keep this card.
If not, discard it.*



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Realizing that the Belarusian winter weather leaves the streets and sidewalks rather wet and sloppy at times, you remember to bring extra shoes to wear at the dinner party to which you have been invited. You leave your boots at the door.

How do you think, feel, or react in this situation? Tell your team, and then keep this card.



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You have spoiled your image as a Western businessperson by being late for a meeting. Even though Belarusians may themselves not be punctual, they believe that Northern Europeans and North Americans are. Therefore you have failed to meet their expectations.

How do you think, feel, or react in this situation? Tell your team, and then discard this card.





"Сам сябе не хвалі, няхай людзі пахваляць."
(Don't boast—let others praise you.)

Belarusian saying

After reading this card aloud, any team member, including you, may comment on it. Keep this card.



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Appearances are important in Belarus. The more messy a situation or a problem, the more people will make efforts to smooth it over. You may get some attention for the problem by expressing personal helplessness and fear of consequences if it is not resolved. Tell your team one thing that they should know about getting people to talk about problems or give bad news in your culture.

After you share, any member of your team who wishes may name for the group a subject that is hard to discuss in his home or work culture. Keep this card.





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