



Levantine Arabs

diversophy®

Sample Cards

Editor: Dr. George Simons

click to play



q diversiCHOICE



As a western man working in Syria, you think that a female (Arab) co-worker is attracted to you because she is very lively, wears make up, and is very friendly to you. You should:

- A. Invite her for dinner.
- B. Tell her that you really like her.
- C. Inquire with her friends whether she is interested in you.

Click on your choice.



a diversiCHOICE



C. Inquire with her friends, is the best answer. This would avoid misunderstandings, and might indicate to you whether she is really interested. B. would show a total lack of sensitivity, and A. could create an uncomfortable situation.

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



q diversiSMARTS



Syria and Lebanon used to be French colonies.

True or False?

Click on your choice.





False. In 1923, Syria and Lebanon were placed under French Mandate. They were never French colonies as was Algeria in North Africa. However, it was not until 1946 that the last vestiges of French dominance were removed from the recently independent Syria.

If your teammates agree that you got the concept, keep this card. If not, discard it.



diversiRISK +



You have been looking for the possibility of opening a little business in Lebanon, and discovered that one of your university friends, a Lebanese, is successfully established there. Through this person's help, your venture is poised to be successful. You realize the importance of personal relationships in Middle Eastern countries.

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



diversiRISK –



It is the afternoon of 1st April. You have just tried to play an April's fool trick on your colleagues in the Damascus office where you work. You did not know, however, that in Arab countries, April's Fool tricks are played by schoolchildren.

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



diversiGUIDE



"Do not carry the ladder sideways."

This Lebanese proverb aims at de-dramatizing a situation by telling the person not to complicate things. "Do not complicate matters."

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



diversiSHARE



Maalesh is an Arabic word which means "never mind". You can use it if someone apologizes for a forgotten meeting or agreement, and makes the person at fault feel better. However, if said in a stern way, *maalesh* reflects the displeasure of the individual.

After you share, you your team will role play using this in both contexts. Keep this card.





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