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[https://www.100test.com/kao\\_ti2020/133/2021\\_2022\\_\\_E8\\_B5\\_96\\_E4\\_B8\\_96\\_E9\\_9B\\_84\\_E9\\_c96\\_133235.htm](https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/133/2021_2022__E8_B5_96_E4_B8_96_E9_9B_84_E9_c96_133235.htm) 16 , When is the best time ? Some people go so far as to say that time does not really exist ; it is all in the mind , they claim. Others note that according to astrophysicists , time really does exist ; it is inseparable from space , coexisting in what these scientists call the "time-space continuum." No matter which view you may hold , time is of relative importance in different cultures. However , when traveling , doing business , or studying in a German-or English-speaking country , it is a good idea to consider time to be of the utmost importance. Many people have noted that the Germans and English are both methodical and well-organized. Naturally , not everyone among them is , but these peoples do seem to share a penchant for orderliness and punctuality. Clocks and time have played a great part in defining the character of the Anglo-Saxons. The geographic use of time began during the British Empire with the world divided by latitude and longitude , with zero degrees longitude running through the observatory at Greenwich , in London. According to the British of that day , the world began its time-keeping from London and it still does. Time is of paramount importance to these Europeans and their overseas descendants. If you are visiting or staying in these countries , here are a few pieces of advice to help you make the transition to a time-centered civilization. As you probably already know , being punctual to the minute is held in high

esteem among them. Time is the most valuable commodity one can have , according to the doctrine of the time worshippers. We are not given very much of it whilst on this planet , and we should do our best to utilize it efficiently each and every day , they say. Wasting others time by forcing them to wait is a sign of disorganized living , a sort of admission to being low-class. It is also seen as an insult to those kept waiting , as if to say , "Your time is not that important." To them , this attitude borders on sin itself ! In business , being late even only a few times may make the difference between your getting a promotion and being kept "in your place." For social dates , it is a sign of slovenliness at best , rejection of those waiting at worst. In school , never burst open the door of the lecture hall to announce , "Im sorry Im late , sir" as is the custom in many countries. The double crime of being tardy and interrupting the proceedings which began on time occurs , with a likely prejudiced and unfavorable grade awaiting the hapless student. Of course , being late can sometimes not be avoided , as in unexpected traffic jams , home emergencies , or having been given the wrong information of date or place. When these all-too-human mishaps do occur , it is important to explain the reason for being late. It is also a good idea , of course , to apologize for the useless waiting and to assure the other or others that it will never happen again. In this age of cell phones , every effort should be made to call ahead if tardiness of more than ten minutes is unavoidable , especially for business or professional appointments or important dates. The last phrase anyone wants to hear is a frosty "You could

have called." That is the prelude to a ruined evening. Not everything begins exactly on time , even in Anglo-Saxon culture. Many casual parties are "open" there. The same is generally true of backyard barbecues and picnics. Dinner parties , on the other hand , are obviously planned around a meal time ; one should make every effort to arrive on ( not before ) time. A friendly "Drop by this evening" invites common sense to interpret : too early during the evening may embarrass the host who is eating dinner , while too late may disturb those who prefer going to bed early. A call first to make sure is never out of line. Remember that time is relative in importance to people within a culture just as it is between cultures. Nothing is more important than human relations. If you commit the "crime" of being late with Anglo-Germanic friends , simply apologize. Few people intentionally keep others waiting , after all. Remember , too , that , "Wehn in Rome , do as the Romans do." In English-and German-speaking lands , this means "Time waits for no man ! " 100Test 下载频道开通 , 各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 [www.100test.com](http://www.100test.com)