

# COMMUNICATION AND CONVERSATION TIPS

*"rushing"*

going through sorority or  
fraternity recruitment

*"y'all"*

you all, or everyone you are  
speaking to

*"hang out"*

spend time with another person  
(watch a movie, eat dinner, etc.)

*"screw up"*

to make a mistake

*"my bad"*

my mistake

*calling something "cheesy"*

cheap or tacky



## CONTACT



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# Tuscaloosa International Friends

## COMMUNICATION GUIDE

STUDENT EDITION

## THE GOAL

*Founded in 1972, Tuscaloosa International Friends (TIF) is a community organization dedicated to providing opportunities for international visitors to learn more about life in Alabama and the United States and for local residents in the Tuscaloosa area to learn more about other cultures. TIF sponsors picnics, dinners, parties, and a friendship family program.*



COMMUNICATION IS KEY TO THE FORMATION OF THE RELATIONSHIPS BUILT THROUGH TIF. TO LEARN ABOUT EACH OTHER, WE MUST FIRST LEARN TO COMMUNICATE.

## COMMUNICATING INTERCULTURALLY

*“the ability to communicate appropriately, effectively, and ethically with people from diverse backgrounds”*

Intercultural communication can sometimes be challenging, but it becomes much easier when you have the tools needed for successful communication. Respecting other people beliefs, values, and customs is a great start to intercultural competence. People have different backgrounds and outlooks on life, but each and every culture deserves respect. When communicating with people from other cultures, observe their behavior and use methods that make them comfortable. Remember that emphasizing your similarities can be more helpful than acknowledging differences. Overall, understand that many factors develop the way people from different cultures communicate. Learning more about the person you're communicating with is the best way to move forward in a relationship!



## CONVERSATION STARTERS

- What was the “high” for you in the last week? The “low?”
- What are the most popular sports in your country? Do you play them?
- What American films are popular in your country?
- When you have free time, what are several things you like to do?
- What is a typical meal like in your country?
- Do you have family photographs that I could see?
- What are the most important holidays in your culture?