



the walker  
CHINA



PPM >

*A smile  
will gain you ten more  
years of life.*

Chinese proverb



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## Social Behavior

### Non-verbal communication

Don't stare or look into eyes directly when talking with Chinese, it's considered disrespectful and will make Chinese feel uncomfortable.

Don't touch Chinese unless you are already familiar with each other, especially ladies. Body-contact between men and women in public is not acceptable.

Don't make too many body movements or gestures while talking with Chinese.

Don't point to a Chinese with one finger, it is a way to insult someone in China. If you really want to point to or at someone, please use your open palm.

Frowning while someone is speaking is interpreted as a sign of disagreement.

Don't take a smile as being necessarily friendly as Chinese tend to smile when they feel difficulty or embarrassment.

If you are young or in a low hierarchical position, when you meet someone older you should lower your head and bend slightly to show respect.

### Never talk about ...

**Political issues:** such as illegal religions, human rights, relations between Taiwan and mainland China, relations between Japan and China, Mao Zedong and his ideas. Talk about the positive sides and avoid the negative ones when involved in those sensitive topics. And do remember not to judge based on what you have learned in your country.

**Sex:** Chinese are not so open to sex as western people. Talking about sex may offend Chinese people and cause embarrassment.

**Religion:** Most Chinese are atheist.

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