

SO, YOU'RE HOSTING A STUDENT FROM BRAZIL.



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Thank you for hosting with AYA!

We understand that this is not only a very exciting time for you, but you may also be feeling nervous. Fear not! **Here are some helpful hints to help make your year a successful one.** *(Please note: while this information is mostly typical of a culture, it does not apply to all students. Every personality is different, so keep that in mind!)*

Please be Aware...

Nonverbal communication can vary widely between countries. One example is the "O.K." gesture one can make with their hands. In Brazil, this is seen as a very obscene gesture. It is equivalent to giving the middle finger in America. This is seen as one of the rudest gestures you can make in Brazil and should always be avoided.

Brazilian society tends to be stratified according to quite distinct socioeconomic groups often related to one's ethnicity. It is important to consider this context and culture when discussing socioeconomics, diversity and background with your student.

1 Conversation Style

Brazilians can be very expressive and emotive in their communication. At times, they may interrupt others when speaking when overcome by their passion or interest in the conversation topic. Moreover, Brazilians are often not afraid to speak their mind and express what is in their heart.

2 Family

Family plays a central role in Brazilian culture. Teens are often raised in close-knit families and may be used to regular (even daily) check-ins with parents or siblings. They're also likely to be respectful of authority figures and eager to build close connections at home.

3 Affectionate & Social

Physical affection is common in Brazil — hugs, friendly touches, and sometimes a cheek kiss are standard greetings. Brazilian teens are used to being socially active and may feel energized by being around others. Encourage group activities, sports, or school events to help them integrate.

4 Food

Brazilian meals are hearty and often shared with family. Common staples include rice, beans, grilled meats and fruits. Snacking is common, but Brazilian students may not be used to eating processed or cold food frequently.

5 Being on Time

Time in Brazil is more flexible than in many other cultures. While students understand the importance of punctuality in the U.S., they may need reminders at first. Help your student adapt to structured routines with patience and consistency.