

**New Elementary 3**  
**Unit 6 Reading**  
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## **Personal Space**

Personal space is an invisible area around you. If someone enters this space when they are talking to you, you might feel nervous or uncomfortable. People have different attitudes toward personal space. Some people like more space than others. How close you stand to someone else when you are talking to them depends on who it is you are talking to and the situation. Also, how close you can go is different in different cultures. Here are some interesting facts about different cultures and personal space.

**invisible** ≠ visible

**invisible** = that we can't see

**nervous** = upset; stressed out; worried

**attitude** = method; outlook; approach

*People have different attitudes toward personal space. = People look at personal space differently.*

**close** = near

**depend on** = to be influenced or determined by something else

➤ *Your success tomorrow depends on your hard work today.*

**situation** = the set of things that are happening and the conditions that exist at a particular time and place

**culture** = the way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs, of a particular group of people at a particular time

In Latin American countries, people feel comfortable standing close to others while waiting in line at the bank or at the supermarket. It's also common for people to sit close to each other in public places such as the subway or the bus. People in North European and Japanese cultures aren't as comfortable with this. North Americans like to have the largest amount of personal space. As a result, they often live in big homes with big rooms. People from Mediterranean countries such as Greece and Italy are more likely to kiss family and friends when they meet. They are also more likely to live most of their lives in the same neighborhood. Australians who live in towns and cities don't need as much personal space as Australians who live out in the desert.

**Latin America** = Central and South America

**while** = when

**line** (American) = **queue** (British) = a line of people, usually standing or in cars, waiting for something, or a lot of people who want something

**common** = usual

**the subway** (American) = **the underground** (British) = a railway system in which electric trains travel through tunnels below ground

**amount** = quantity

**as a result** = therefore; that is why

**Mediterranean countries** = the countries around the Mediterranean Sea

**such as** = like, for example

**Greece** = a country in the southeast of Europe near Turkey

**likely** = probable

• life + s = lives /ai/ آي

• live + s = lives /i/ اي كوتاه

**neighbor** (American) = **neighbour** (British)

**neighborhood** (American) = **neighbourhood** (British)

**desert** = a big area of a hot dry land

**Source:**

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