

FIRST NIGHT QUESTIONS

(PLEASE NOTE: The following questions can be found on the NAYEN website where any two of many languages may be viewed and printed side by side.)

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These questions are suggestions only. You and your host family should discuss anything that you think is important. We suggest you discuss the items most important to you as soon as possible. When you are in a new place with not much language skill, it is best not to assume anything, but rather, to ask. The simplest questions may be the most important, such as “where is the bathroom”? You can come back to other questions as they seem necessary.

1. What would you like me to call you? Should I call you “Mom”, “Dad”, or given (first) name, or something else?
2. What are my daily responsibilities while living in your home: a. Make my bed? b. Keep my room neat and clean? c. Clean the bathroom after I use it? d. Other?
3. What is the procedure for laundering clothes? Where do I keep dirty clothes until they are to be washed?
4. What is the procedure if I need to iron my clothes?
5. May I use the iron, washing machine, sewing machine, etc.?
6. Where can I keep my bathroom accessories?
7. When is the most convenient time for me to use the bathroom on weekday mornings (in order to get ready for school)?
8. When is the best time for me to shower or bathe?
9. Is there anything special about using the bathroom I should know?
10. May I use the family’s shampoo and tooth paste or should I buy my own?
11. When are mealtimes?
12. Do I have any responsibilities at meal times, such as to set or clear the table, wash or dry the dishes, dispose of the garbage?
13. May I help myself to food and drinks (non-alcoholic) at any time or must I ask first?
14. May I use kitchen appliances such as the microwave, dishwasher or stove?
15. What areas of the house are strictly private, for example, your study, bedroom, pantry, etc.?
16. What are your rules about my drinking alcohol?
17. What time must I get up weekday mornings?
18. May I rearrange the furniture in my bedroom?
19. May I put posters or pictures on the walls of my room? If yes, how do you want things attached to the walls?
20. Where can I store my suitcases?
21. May I use the stereo, computer or TV?
22. What time should I get up weekends and holidays?
23. What time must I go to bed weekdays? Weekends?
24. What time must I be at home on school nights if I go out?
25. What time must I be in on weekends if I go out?
26. What dates are the birthdays of family members?
27. May I have friends stay overnight?

28. What is your rule on entertaining friends in my room?
29. Can I invite friends over during the day? After school? When no one else is home?
30. What is the telephone number here? How do I contact you in an emergency when I am not here?
31. How do I make telephone calls? What are the rules about telephone calls? Local, Long Distance, International? How and when may I pay for calls I make? How do you want me to keep track of my expenses for telephone calls?
32. What are the rules about access to the Internet and e-mail if there is a computer in the house? Are there time limits or time periods that use is permitted or prohibited? If you are not connected to the Internet, where can I find an Internet service to contact my family and friends?
33. May I receive telephone calls from my friends? Are there times of the day when calls are not acceptable?
34. What is the procedure about sending and receiving mail?
35. Do any of you have any special dislikes? For example, chewing gum, types of music, being late, wearing a hat at the table, being interrupted while reading, etc.
36. What transportation is available to me? (Walking, bus, bicycle, being driven, riding with friends, etc) Are there times or places it is unsafe for me to walk unescorted? Are there rules about traveling with friends?
37. What transportation is available for shopping or going to movies?
38. What are your expectations for me about going to church or other religious institution?
39. May I smoke? Where? (Rotary discourages smoking in general and forbids smoking in bedrooms)
40. If I have a problem with the family or a family member that is bothering me, how do you want me to handle it? a. Write a note to you explaining it? b. Ask for a face-to-face discussion with you? c. Tell my Rotary counselor? d. Keep it to myself and live with it?
41. How do I enroll in school?
42. What do I do about school lunch? If there is an expense, who pays- me, you, Rotary?
43. How can I arrange to go shopping for personal items?
44. Is there anything else I can do around the house to be of help?
45. Am I expected to attend Rotary meetings? How often? Who will arrange for this?
46. Is there anything else we should discuss?
47. Remember, ask about those things you feel are most important the first night, and then others as appropriate. Try to always keep an open and

honest communication with your Host Family and Rotary.