

Waiting

In everyday life, we have all had to wait – for a plane, train, or simply to complete bureaucratic procedures. You have to wait your turn. But what about in other contexts? Have you had to wait for a friend at a coffee shop, bar, or meeting, and that friend arrives an hour late without a message, excuse, or apology? How did that make you feel?

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Each meeting or appointment has a set time acceptable to both parties, or a time is specified for a seminar or lecture to commence for everyone. If you receive notification on time, you should be on time. Punctuality shows respect and professionalism.

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In northern Europe and North America, timeliness is regarded as a rule, and if you schedule an appointment, being punctual means that you arrive 5 or 10 minutes early to ensure you aren't late. It is a habit – a virtue that generates credibility. It not only enhances your standing but also helps you to formulate credible plans and implement them. Perhaps most importantly, it respects other people and their time; after all, the time they spend waiting for you is part of their life that you have wasted and can never give back.

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What things do you have to wait for?

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When should you arrive for appointments in northern European countries?

What are the benefits to you of being on time?