

**Handout 4. Quote Cards.** Excerpts from students' reports. **45 min.**

**Time Orientation:** Share your opinions about the situations. What about your own culture? The situations below are mainly around schedules and punctuality. What other aspects of attitudes to time can you mention? Collect them in a mindmap.

**Guatemala:** The bus leaves an hour later because there are not enough people, but in De the bus leaves on time even though the bus driver sees smb running to catch it.

**Dagestan:** It is not allowed to warn a friend about your visit – he will be very angry.

**Australia:** The meeting may start 20 min behind the schedule.

**France:** Nadine was half an hour late for the skype interview.

**China:** Come late without informing others.

**Canada:** Spontaneous on planning trips, holidays: deciding on Thursday to go on a camping tour over the weekend is a normal thing.

**Brazil:**

- During the interview Fernanda writes a lot of text messages, looks up the words for me in the mobile dictionary, I tell her I'll look it up later, but she still does it. **The solution** – plan more time, get back to the topic when the direction is changed;
- She not only answered my questions but also manicured her nails, watched the hotpot, telephoned constantly or was typing on her mobile.

**Thailand:**

- The train started half an hour later because the driver was talking with smb over the mobile and didn't watch the time, then they waited for another hour to leave the station.
- Project meeting with the students – the Thai didn't show up on time, others found them playing cards with some friends.
- In Germany every day is planned very precisely from morning till night, in Thailand you just start your day and you live in it.
- Time is defined by the sun.

**Spain:**

Laura was really unpunctual every time we wanted to meet. She would say: "For what?" (...*shall I stress myself with a hassle*).

In business cases she is trying to be absolutely on time. For private appointments she is trying to be punctual, but mostly it doesn't help. "I guess there is no pressure" she says. Once, I reminded her of the day when she showed up an hour and a half later and her excuse was a Skype session. We laughed a lot. I also asked her if their friends here in Stuttgart are that unpunctual as well or if they complain about her being late all the time. She laughed at this, saying that the German friends complain every week about it but the Spanish don't.

**Armenia:**

When having an appointment with an Armenian it often occurs that Armenians show up late. That's because Armenians are impulsive and change their plans very quickly and a one hour appointment can be extended to a half a day meeting which of course affects the schedule of the entire day. Artur explained that if an Armenian is spending a lot more time with you than was actually planned it is a good sign, as it shows that he likes you. When this happens at a business meeting it is a positive indication for the deal. Artur explains he has a different approach to making appointments with German and Armenian customers at his shoe repair shop. For the German customers it is very important to be served on the agreed time while his Armenian customers often show up late and it is usual and important to drink a tea first and have some small talk when they show up in the store.