Warmer

What do these pictures have in common?
Task 1: Social Norms Discussion

A. Your teacher will give you a set of cards. Match two cards together for each UK social norm.

B. In your group, discuss the differences and similarities between each UK social norm and the norm in your country. Mention any differences in norms for men and norms for women where appropriate.

C. List three norms which are very different in the UK and in your country:

1. __________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________
Advice to Travellers: Shopping in the UK

There are a few golden rules to follow when shopping in the UK. Abide by these and your shopping trip should run smoothly:

1. **Queuing** – Yes, what you’ve heard is true! The British love to queue. Whether they’re waiting to pay at the checkout or waiting to choose their bananas, Brits tend to stand patiently in line for their turn, and pushing in is frowned upon.

2. **Saying thanks** – The British are fond of saying ‘thank you’ when shopping – perhaps a little too much! When they’re paying for their groceries, people may thank the cashier three or four times - don’t be surprised if you hear them do this! On the flip side, when customers forget to thank them, cashiers can get quite annoyed.

3. **Haggling** – When at the market or when buying a large item such as a house or a car, it is usually okay to try to persuade the seller to lower the price of an item (to haggle). In a supermarket or clothes shop, however, haggling usually only works if an item is faulty in some way.

4. **Controlling children** – When children misbehave in a supermarket (as kids sometimes do), most parents tell their children off as quietly as possible to avoid attracting attention to themselves.

5. **Asking for help** – If you’re walking round in circles and can’t find the spaghetti, don’t lose all hope – shop assistants tend to be very helpful. However, being too direct (e.g. saying ‘I want spaghetti’) won’t go down too well. For best results, say something like ‘Excuse me. Could you tell me where to find the spaghetti, please?’.

6. **Trolley etiquette** – If you are ever tempted to leave your trolley in the middle of a supermarket aisle while you’re choosing your carrots, beware! While most Brits would probably try to squeeze past your trolley wordlessly, in extreme circumstances, blocking an aisle may cause ‘trolley rage’ among other shoppers (this is quite similar to road rage).
Task 2 (Cont.): Shopping in the UK Reading Comprehension

A. Read the whole text quickly. Which of the social norms in the text did you mention in your group discussion?

B. Find up to 5 words or phrases from the text that you would like to know the meaning of. Write them in the grid below. Now find out the meaning by using a dictionary, your mobile phone or asking other students.

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<th>Word or Phrase</th>
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Explain the meaning of at least two of your words to another student.
Task 2 (Cont.): Shopping in the UK Reading Comprehension

C. Read the text again and look at the statements below. Write ‘T’ if they are true and ‘F’ if they are false.

1. This text is from a website.
2. This text is written for British people.
3. In the UK, pushing into a queue is acceptable.
4. If a customer doesn’t say “thank you”, a cashier may become angry.
5. It is usually okay to haggle in a supermarket.
6. Most British parents tend to tell their children off loudly in public.
7. Saying ‘I want spaghetti’ is likely to annoy a shop assistant.
8. Blocking a supermarket aisle with a trolley will usually lead to loud arguments with other customers.

D. Look at the complex sentence below and write ‘MC’ above the main clause and ‘SC’ above the subordinate clause:

When they’re paying for their groceries, people often thank the cashier three or four times.

E. Using the complex sentence structure from Task 3D above, write one or two complex sentences about social norms for shopping in your country (these can be true or false):

Now show these sentences to your partner to guess whether they are true or false.