

# American-Israeli

## Cross-Cultural Reference Guide

### Israelis

*Israelis tend to see themselves as:*

Informal

Outspoken, direct, honest

Spontaneous, open, natural

Hospitable, warm

Assertive

Flexible about plans and schedules; casual about rules and regulations

Creative, able to improvise

Active, taking initiative

Self-confident

Willing to take risks

Wary, alert, realistic

*Americans often see Israelis as:*

Rude, familiar, inconsiderate, disrespectful, insubordinate, unprofessional

Tactless, rude, blunt, disrespectful, aggressive, stubborn, insubordinate

Out of control, intrusive, ill-mannered, unprofessional

Smothering, intrusive, dominating

Aggressive, arrogant, ruthless, stubborn

Inefficient, sloppy, unprofessional, undisciplined, arrogant, irresponsible, inconsiderate

Superficial, chaotic, undisciplined, unsystematic

Insubordinate, pushy, undisciplined, intrusive, dominating, aggressive

Arrogant

Irresponsible, overconfident

Cynical, distrustful

### Americans:

*Americans tend to see themselves as:*

Polite

Friendly

Respectful of privacy (theirs and yours)

Sharing personal concerns

Organized

Respectful of authority

Professional

Efficient

Trusting and trustworthy

*Israelis often see Americans as:*

Insincere, artificial, lacking spontaneity, excessively formal

Naive, superficial, sexually provocative, artificial

Distant, unfriendly, lacking spontaneity, shy, excessively formal

Tastelessly exposing private matters, unnecessarily revealing, intrusive

Rigid, "square," inflexible, efficient at the expense of personal relationships, going by the book instead of improvising, focused on procedures instead of the task at hand

Passive, conforming, excessively formal, excessively mindful of hierarchy, focused on roles rather than goals, *fryer* (Hebrew slang for "sucker," or "pushover")

Arbitrarily differentiating between work and social spheres, excessively formal

Arbitrarily differentiating between work and social spheres, unfriendly, overly programmed, lacking spontaneity

Naive