



THE ANNOYING REALITIES OF BEING LEFT-HANDED

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Being left-handed in a world where the majority uses the other hand can be inconvenient and frustrating. Imagine walking into classroom sleep drunk and realising that there is no left-handed desk for you. Life may seem indifferent to people like you and me, but for them, it is more inclined towards the right-handed. Having a sibling and some close friends who are lefties, I decided to bring out some of the issues that they frequently have to face.

THE UNIVERSAL LOOK

So the scene goes something like this: there is this girl in your class who's been sitting next to you for a while now and she suddenly notices that you are writing with your left hand. Her eyes immediately shoot up to your face. She looks at you with her mouth so wide open that you

start wondering whether you are actually starring as the homicidal maniac in a horror movie. Okay, maybe I'm over exaggerating.

"You're left-handed?" she asks with a concoction of shock and curiosity.

You nod and forge a smile. In fact, this is the two hundred and twentieth time someone had asked you that question with a similar expression.

ELBOW BUMPS

You are eating beside your right-handed buddy when your elbows keep bumping onto each other's. The only solution is to keep a distance. However, you can always play elbow wrestling, if that's a thing.

EATING WITH RELATIVES

Especially when you are a Bengali, you aren't allowed to eat *bhaat* with your left hand. They will remind you how the left hand is used for bodily hygiene you-

know-where and some of them may even ask you to suddenly switch to your right hand for everything. So either you need to have ambidextrous superpowers or eat your meal alone at one corner of your bedroom.

REGRETFUL INVOLUNTARY ACTIONS

Going for a handshake with a right-handed person always requires a conscious effort. You have to keep reminding yourself that you need to extend your right hand, not the left, which you might involuntarily do. Imagine extending your left hand while the other person proffers his right. *Awkward.*

Then, there's always people reminding you that you should not offer anything with the left hand. My leftie friend handed money to a random rickshawpuller one day, and he refused to take it. When asked, he said, "You're giving it with your left

hand. It's wrong."

Only when I offered the money using my right hand, he took it. *So much for using just a different hand.*

INTELLIGENCE TESTING

Because it is widely regarded that lefties are more creative than their right-handed counterparts, people always curious to know your level of intelligence. If your score in that IQ test is nowhere near Einstein's, you will be considered garbage.

Not-so-fun fact: The word "left" derives from the Anglo-Saxon word "lyft", meaning "weak". We now know however, in context, it is not true.

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TYPES OF PEOPLE IN A STUDY TOUR

BIG RED JANE ANGER

Study tours are a great time to truly get to know the people you spend time with on campus and in classrooms. It's also a convenient way to travel because they tend to be subsidised and as a result, pocket-friendly, while providing a great medium to supplement classroom learning with practical knowledge. The people on these tours can generally be divided up in a few camps based on their antics. Here are the people you can expect to run into.

PSEUDO INTELLECTUALS

These are perhaps the most serious people on the whole trip. Just about everything is up for analysis and debates, which is great when kept distanced from everyone else's nap times. These are the ones who take notes, conduct interviews and have long speeches to give during meal times after the day comes to an end. If you're in need of sleep, you'll most likely be denied the chance due to their very loud and (sometimes) dramatic debates in the wee hours of the night. You may also find stacks of tea cups in the vicinity.

SERIAL PDA OFFENDERS

These are the people who somehow manage to turn everyone into their nth wheel. You can try to avoid being so all you want but they're not seeking your permission or freeing you of the misery.



Couples on trips usually live in an impenetrable bubble, just having a vacation of their own, with your existence equating to pollution in their beautiful world. If you're having to room with one, may the Lord bless your soul, because you're going

to have very limited access to your own space.

KLUTZES

Some people manage to get into accidents regardless of the situation and tours aren't the best time for this bunch. They

do, however, make for good comic relief and occasional horrors. There's generally a doubt about whether some of these people will make it back alive (in one piece) and it's usually pretty well grounded.

FASHIONABLY LATE

Bigger groups are always harder to herd, especially when in areas one is not familiar with. These individuals, however, have everyone else on their toes, searching for them and calling them incessantly in order to be able to actually be able to move from point A to B without losing a whole day. These people are a diverse bunch, with some being perpetually lost or untraceable and others being perpetually asleep.

FREE RIDERS

This has to be the one group that I am least favourable towards. These people either bring nothing with them or don't use any of their own stuff. They'll devour your snacks, use your toiletries and drink your water – all without making any effort or contribution to refill the supplies they depleted.

If your tour spans over a few days, your patience may be tested and pushed to its limit. The best thing to do is remember it's all temporary and focus on having the best time. If anything, you'll at least learn how to find escapes.