

**D14 Katharina / Germany / Foreign Languages in Adult Education**

Interaction partner(s): Chinese student  
Moment of enquiry: SS 07  
Experience of difference: Conventions of conduct for invitations

Katharina, a German student, is friends with Chinese student Lian. So far, Lian and Katharina have only met within the framework of their university studies. But after they've got to know each other, Katharina asks the Chinese if she would like to come over for dinner at her house. Lian declines the invitation without giving a reason. Katharina is angry about this rejection, especially since Lian does not give a reason; after that, she keeps her distance from the Chinese student. However, they don't break off their contact completely, and after a few weeks, Katharina invites her Chinese friend over again. Lian declines Katharina's invitation just like the first time. Katharina has no explanation for this behaviour and asks for the reason for the rejection. Lian is surprised but does not explain her behaviour.

1. What might explain the German student's annoyance? What did she expect, and how does she interpret the "no" from the Chinese?
2. What could be the reason that Lian keeps declining the German student's invitation?