

Our stereotypes about
Britain



Stereotype

A picture in your head, or an opinion you have, about a person or group of people based on the actions or behaviours of others that are similar.

You can tell I'm British because...



I live in the past



I don't care what people think



I'm a different person when the sun's out



I'm not bothered about a bit of dust



I never refuse a drink



I don't speak a foreign language



I'm lost without my dog



I wouldn't live anywhere else!

Stereotypes about Brits you
are aware of:



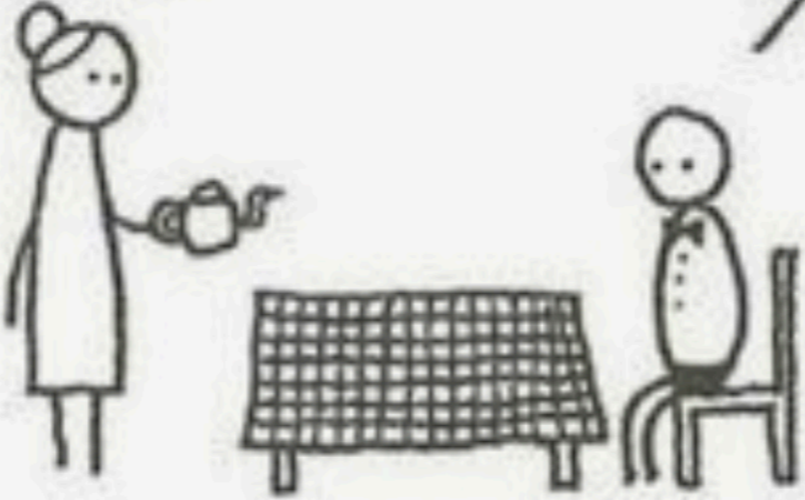
All Brits are great tea-lovers!

Fact or fiction?



WOULD YOU
LIKE SOME TEA?

NO.



ANARCHY
IN THE UK.

It's a nation of fish and chips lovers

Fact or fiction?



British food is terrible!

Fact or fiction?



There is a British bulldog in each British family

Fact or fiction?



Brits are obsessed with the Royal Family

Fact or fiction?



They live in castles and cottages

Fact or fiction?



Brits have a British accent

Fact or fiction?



- Famous British RP ('typically British', 'BBC English' or 'Oxford English')
- Great variety of accents



They love talking about the weather

Fact!



- ◆ An ideal topic of your small talk
- ◆ There is always something to discuss
- ◆ Conversations about the weather are not about the weather at all))

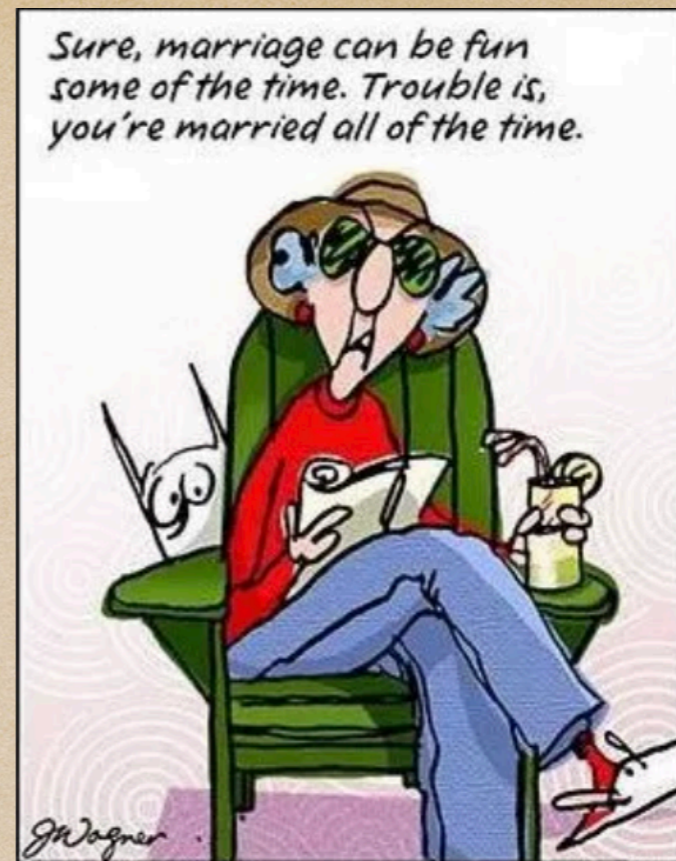
- English **weather-speak** is a form of 'grooming talk'
- **Weather-speak** can be used as a simple greeting/as an ice-breaker leading to conversation on other matters/as a 'default', 'filler' or 'displacement' subject, when conversation on other matters falters, and there is an awkward or uncomfortable lull.
- You must **never** contradict anybody when discussing the weather. Failure to agree with your opponent is a serious breach of etiquette
- Foreigners **are not allowed** to criticize the weather

Brits have a particular sense of humor

Fact!

- Irony and heavy sarcasm are the bedrock of British humour.
- Irony is a constant element of ordinary, everyday conversations.
- Sarcasm - when irony turns nasty (intended to insult, put down or mock another person).
- Understatement (when you intentionally make a situation seem less important than it really is) as a form of irony is by no means an exclusively English form of humour.
- British jokes are full of puns (a pun is a play on words).

- Good heavens! What's this?
- It's bean soup.
- I don't care what it's been.
I want to know what it is now!



I'd tell you a chemistry joke, but I know I wouldn't get a reaction.

He drove his expensive car into a tree and found out how a Mercedes bends.

British people love queueing

Fact!



British people are the biggest binge drinkers in the world

Fact?



- Each pub has its own 'social micro-climate'. The primary function of drinking-places is the facilitation of social bonding.
- Pubs are not only the heart of the community, but they are an institution and synonymous with British culture.
- There were approximately 47,600 pubs operating in the United Kingdom in 2018.
- There were 1,954 pubs in London in 2019.

Stiff upper lip

Fact?

- the British are quite reserved and keep their emotions and feelings to themselves.
- They might not gush about anything, but they do have emotions. But only when appropriate.

Brits are super polite

Fact!

- The reflex-apology rule - when in doubt, say 'sorry'.
- With most English people, it's just automatic.
- If you haven't heard a Brit say the word 'sorry' at least five times in the past two hours, you'd better check your location settings.

Brits are posh and obsessed with class system

Fact?

- 'It is impossible for an Englishman to open his mouth without making some other Englishman hate him or despise him'
- There are two main factors involved in the calculation of this position: terminology and pronunciation – the words you use and how you say them. Pronunciation is a more reliable indicator.
- Upper-class and non-upper-class words
- Your class determines your life style

Brits are great pet-lovers

Fact!



- An Englishman's home may be his castle, but his dog is the real king.
- The type and breed of pet you keep is a more reliable class indicator than your attitude towards animals.



a tailless Manx cat
- were known by the early 19th century as cats from
the [Isle of Man](#)



- ◆ Has its own Parliament called 'Tynwald' - claims to be the oldest continuous parliamentary body in the world (is claimed to have been in continuous existence since 979 or earlier)

Time to discuss

Thanks for your attention!