

# **No sex please, we're British!**

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## **Activity 1**

*Which adjectives would you use to describe the British, the Americans, the Australians etc? Which adjectives do other nationalities use to describe people from your country, in general? Work with your partner and use the adjectives below to help you but try to think of some more too.*

arrogant shy friendly passionate tall short lazy hardworking  
emotional unemotional funny efficient romantic dirty clean competitive

## **Activity 2**

*Read the following statements and decide if they are true or false, generally speaking. Then compare your answers with your partner.*

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. The Germans are very efficient.                          | True/False? |
| 2. The Italians have very close-knit families.              | True/False? |
| 3. The French are arrogant.                                 | True/False? |
| 4. The Japanese work extremely hard.                        | True/False? |
| 5. The British expect foreigners to speak English.          | True/False? |
| 6. The Russians like vodka.                                 | True/False? |
| 7. The British don't like showing their emotions in public. | True/False? |
| 8. The Japanese don't blow their noses in public.           | True/False? |
| 9. The Thais don't touch their heads in public.             | True/False? |
| 10. The Spanish associate chrysanthemums with death.        | True/False? |
| 11. The Swiss are good at skiing.                           | True/False? |
| 12. The Japanese respect authority.                         | True/False? |
| 13. The British drink a lot of tea.                         | True/False? |
| 14. The Italians have dark hair and dark eyes.              | True/False? |
| 15. The British are not very religious.                     | True/False? |
| 16. The Italians are passionate lovers.                     | True/False? |
| 17. The British are not passionate lovers.                  | True/False? |
| 18. National generalizations can be useful.                 | True/False? |

## **Activity 3**

*Use the following questions to begin a conversation with your partner.*

1. Look at the sentences in Activity 2 again and decide with your partner which ones can be classed as 'Cultural Characteristics' and which ones can be classed as 'National Stereotypes'.
2. When does a 'cultural characteristic' become a 'national stereotype'?
2. Do you think it is important to learn about different cultures? Why/not?
3. To what extent do you think it helps international relations to make generalizations about national characteristics and cultural differences?

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## **Activity 4**

*Do you think it helps international relations to make generalizations about national characteristics and cultural differences? You are going to take part in a discussion about this question on an Internet Forum at **EnglishClub.com**.*

### **Task 1**

1. *Did most people agree or disagree that it helps international relations to make generalizations about national and cultural differences?*
2. *What was the most common reason given for agreeing or disagreeing?*

### **Task 2**

1. *Read the post your teacher has put on the board at: <http://forum.englishclub.com/projects/> and summarize the main points.*
2. *Choose one point from your teacher's post which you strongly agree or disagree with and post a short paragraph in reply, stating your reasons and giving examples from your own experience where possible.*

### **Task 3**

1. *Read the responses other students post to your teacher. Choose one you strongly agree with and one you strongly disagree with and post responses, explaining your opinion.*
2. *Make notes of the new words and phrases you have learned from participating in this Forum discussion activity that will help you to communicate your point of view on this subject in a classroom discussion.*

### **N.B. Netiquette!**

**PLEASE CHANGE THE DEFAULT SUBJECT LINE  
TO INDICATE THE OPINION/S IN YOUR POST BECAUSE IN A BUSY  
THREAD IT HELPS PEOPLE TO DECIDE WHICH POSTS TO READ!**

## **Activity 5**

*Have you ever seen 'East is East' or 'Bend it like Beckham'? Both films deal with the difficulties faced by young Asians in Britain who find themselves caught in a trap created by the cultural differences between their lives within their families and the lives they lead outside the family, in modern Britain. Why not try to see them in the original language?*

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