



# Stereotypes

Lesson code: JQVG-3HQB-B8JS-E

PRE-INTERMEDIATE

## 1 Warm up

What stereotypes do you know about Britain?

## 2 Key words

Match the words to their meaning and complete the sentences below.

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. an expat     | a. a line of people who are waiting   |
| 2. cuisine      | b. a person who lives in a foreign country  |
| 3. a survey     | c. a set of questions with a choice of answers, designed to get information about something |
| 4. sarcastic    | d. a style of cooking   |
| 5. good manners | e. ironic or critical   |
| 6. a queue      | f. polite behaviour   |

1. John has \_\_\_\_\_. He always opens doors for other people.
2. According to the \_\_\_\_\_, most people agree with the government's decision.
3. I really like Italian \_\_\_\_\_. I eat pizza and pasta every week.
4. He said, "You are a very good tennis player." But it wasn't a compliment -- he was being \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Maria is living in London at the moment. She's a Spanish \_\_\_\_\_.
6. I don't like checking in at airports because I usually have to wait in a \_\_\_\_\_ for a long time.

## 3 Find the information

Read the article on the next page about a survey of expats living in Britain. Complete the statements.

1. About 30% do not like living in Britain, mainly because of the weather, culture and cuisine.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ do not like the British people.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ think that British people drink a lot of tea.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ really dislike the drinking culture in Britain.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ appreciate the British ability to wait in queues.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ have a better opinion of Britain than before.

THE  
INDEPENDENT

## British culture revealed

(according to expats living in Britain)

British people drink too much, have a terrible sense of humour and the weather is awful -- according to a survey of foreign expats who live in Britain.

About 30 per cent of the expats said that they did not like living in Britain, mainly because of the weather, the culture and the cuisine. And around a quarter of the expats didn't really like the British people.

The survey was conducted by a website that tries to help people with visa applications. More than 1,400 expats from different parts of the world were asked questions. Over half of them said that the behaviour of British people agreed with their international stereotype, but 'only' 41 per cent agreed with the famous British preference for drinking lots of tea.

For 42 per cent of the expats, the excessive drinking culture was the worst British trait. Many others mostly disliked our sarcastic sense of humour.

But despite the negative things, most expats said that generally speaking they liked the British. Nearly

half said our best trait is our good manners, and our special ability to wait in queues was appreciated by 40 per cent of the expats. Also, 61 per cent of the people who didn't like Britain said their opinion of the people and place was better than before.

Liam Clifford, from GlobalVisas.com, the website that conducted the research, said: "Moving to a new country is very challenging.

"Maybe you think that you know everything about a place from your holidays there, but actually living in a country is completely different.

"There are stereotypes about many nationalities. But, historically, so many countries have been influenced by Britain, so the stereotypes about British people are very well-known.

"However, the survey shows that opinions improve after living here, in most cases. This is good to see."

*Adapted from The Independent, by Adam Withnall, 28 August 2013*

### 4 Checking understanding

Answer the questions below.

1. What stereotypes about British people does the article mention?
2. What did the expats dislike about Britain?
3. What did the expats like about British people?
4. Why are stereotypes about British people well-known all over the world?
5. Why is Liam Clifford positive about the survey results?

## 5 Grammar -- Passive voice

Compare **active** and **passive** structures.

**Active:** British people **drink** too much.

**Passive:** The survey **was conducted** by a website.

In the **active** sentence, the *subject* (British people) causes an action (drink).

In the **passive** sentence, we say what happens *to* the subject (the survey). The cause of the action (a website) is not the focus of the sentence.

The **passive** is formed with the verb **be (is/are/was/were etc.) + past participle (e.g. conducted)**

For a list of irregular verb forms, go to <https://www.caledonianenglish.com/irregularverbs> or scan the QR code:



If we want to say *who* or *what* causes the action in a passive sentence, we use **by**:

The letter **was posted by** her father.

He **was hit by** a motorbike.

Find more examples of the passive in the article.

## 6 Verbs in the passive

Complete the sentences using one of these verbs in the correct form:

break

clean

invite

lose

make

teach

write

1. The sauce \_\_\_\_\_ this morning from fresh tomatoes and red wine.
2. I didn't see you at the party because I \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. The office \_\_\_\_\_ every morning, before the workers arrive.
4. I don't know when the book \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. John \_\_\_\_\_ French at school when he was a child.
6. I can't find my keys anywhere. I think they \_\_\_\_\_ .
7. I'm afraid we can't watch the football match today. The television \_\_\_\_\_ .

## 7 Active or passive?

Complete the sentences with the verbs in the correct form (active or passive):

1. This photo \_\_\_\_\_ (take) while I was relaxing on the beach.
2. I can't get in the house. The door \_\_\_\_\_ (lock)!
3. Mr Smith \_\_\_\_\_ (close) his shop every day at 5pm.
4. Can I borrow some money from you? My wallet \_\_\_\_\_ (steal) this morning.
5. Somebody \_\_\_\_\_ (steal) my wallet while I was at the bar. I'm never going back there again!
6. I liked your old Facebook profile picture. Why \_\_\_\_\_ (you/change/it)?
7. Alan \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) everywhere. He loves his new car.
8. The president \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) everywhere. He has his own private chauffeur.

## 8 Questions with the passive

Write questions using the passive.

When / the television / invent? *When was the television invented?*

1. When / the first website / build? .....
2. When / the telephone / invent? .....
3. How often / the Olympics / hold? .....
4. When / the first car / make? .....
5. When / America / discover? .....
6. Which leader / show / on Indian banknotes? .....

Now try to guess the answers to the questions or work with a partner and ask/answer the questions. Compare your answers to the correct answers. How close were you?

## 9 Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below:

1. What are the stereotypes about people from your country?
2. How true are stereotypes?