

LIFE IN THE UK

People in the UK

21st century Britain has a **very diverse population**. The UK has always welcomed people from other countries, initially from **former British Empire countries**, and more recently from **the European Union**.

The UK is a very tolerant society and most people live happily side by side. It is illegal to discriminate against people in the UK because of their **race, gender, sexuality or disability**.



Geography

The United Kingdom is formed of four separate countries: **England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland**. More than 61 million people live here. **England** is the largest of the four nations, and the **most densely populated**, especially in the South East, near London.

The weather varies according to region, although in general the UK has a **mild and damp climate**. **Winters are wet rather than very cold, and snow is rare**. Scotland and Northern Ireland have the **coldest winters and most snow**. The South is **the warmest and driest part of the country**. Students should remember that the British climate is changeable – a rainy day can be followed by one which is warm and sunny.

Figure 1. Draw the four countries of the United Kingdom <https://www.englishuk.com/en/agents/english-in-the-uk/life-in-the-uk>
다른 참고자료. <http://projectbritain.com/>

The culture of the United Kingdom is influenced by the UK's history as a **developed state**, a **liberal democracy** and a **great power**; its predominantly **Christian religious life**; and its composition of **four countries—England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland**—each of which has distinct customs, **cultures** and **symbolism**. The wider **culture of Europe** has also influenced British culture, and **Humanism**, **Protestantism** and **representative democracy** developed from broader **Western culture**.

British literature, music, cinema, art, theatre, comedy, media, television, philosophy, architecture and education are important aspects of British culture. The United Kingdom is also prominent in science and technology, producing world-leading scientists (e.g. **Isaac Newton** and **Charles Darwin**) and inventions. **Sport is an important part of British culture; numerous sports originated in the country, including football**. The UK has been described as a "cultural superpower",^{[1][2]} and **London** has been described as a world cultural capital.^{[3][4]} A global opinion poll for the BBC saw the UK ranked the third most positively viewed nation in the world (behind Germany and Canada) in 2013 and 2014.^{[5][6]}

The **Industrial Revolution**, which started in the UK, had a profound effect on the family **socio-economic** and cultural conditions of the world. As a result of the **British Empire**, significant British influence can be observed in the **language, law, culture and institutions** of a geographically wide assortment of countries, including **Australia, Canada, India, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the United States** and English speaking Caribbean nations. These states are sometimes collectively known as the **Anglosphere**, and are among Britain's closest allies.^{[7][8]} In turn the empire also influenced British culture, particularly **British cuisine**.^[9] The **cultures of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland** are diverse and have varying degrees of overlap and distinctiveness.^[10]



Figure 2. The four countries of the United Kingdom

UK accents

Students often ask about the different regional English accents in the UK. These do exist but the pronunciation differences are smaller than would be found between British, Australian and American English. Teachers and host families will always speak very clearly for students, and they are unlikely to encounter any problems with local accents.

Languages and regional accents of the United Kingdom

First spoken in **early medieval England**, the **English language** is the **de facto official language of the UK**, and is spoken monolingually by an estimated **95%** of the **British population**.^{[11][note 1]}

Individual countries within the UK have frameworks for the promotion of their indigenous languages. Under the **European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**, the **UK Government** has committed to the promotion of certain linguistic traditions. The United Kingdom has ratified the charter for: **Welsh** (in Wales), **Scottish Gaelic and Scots** (in Scotland), **Cornish** (in Cornwall), and **Irish and Ulster Scots** (in Northern Ireland). **British Sign Language** is also a recognised language.

Owing to its long history, dialects and regional accents vary amongst the four **countries of the United Kingdom**, as well as within the countries themselves. Some nearby cities have different dialects and accents, such as **Scousers** from Liverpool and **Mancunians** from Manchester, which are separated by just 35 miles (56 km). Notable Scouse speakers include **John Lennon** and **Paul McCartney** of **The Beatles**, while Mancunians include **Liam** and **Noel Gallagher** from **Oasis**.^[13]



Audrey Hepburn as the flower girl Eliza Doolittle on the set of the 1964 movie musical *My Fair Lady*. Receiving elocution lessons to remove her Cockney accent, she "gets it" when she says "The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain".

The **Cockney accent** is traditionally spoken by **working-class Londoners**. **Michael Caine** is a notable exponent, as is **Eliza Doolittle** in *Pygmalion* (*My Fair Lady*), whose dialect includes words that are common among working-class Londoners, such as **ain't**: "I ain't done nothing wrong", said Doolittle.^[14] **Received Pronunciation** is the accent of standard English in the UK, with speakers including the **British Royal Family**.

Notable exponents of **Scottish accents** include **Sean Connery**, comedian **Billy Connolly**, and **The Proclaimers** (their song "I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)" showcases their strong Scottish accent).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_the_United_Kingdom

Culture and social etiquette in United Kingdom

Get started with this short **primer** on culture and social etiquette in the United Kingdom.

There are **no strict etiquette rules** that you have to stick to when in the UK. It is advisable, however, to demonstrate decent manners and **respect to the local culture and traditions**.

The first, and most important step, is to be aware of the clearly distinct nations which form the UK. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland consists of **England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland**. The citizens of any of these countries may be referred to as "British". This term is also the safest to use when not certain of a person's **heritage**. When certain of heritage, you are free to call the different residents as follows: **English, Scot, Welsh or Irish**. While the four countries **share many customs**, each has its own set of traditions and history.



Greetings and meetings

When first meeting a **Brit**, he or she may **seem reserved and cold**, but that is just an **impression**. In reality, they are very **friendly and helpful** to foreigners. A **handshake** is the common form of greeting, but try to **avoid prolonged eye contact**, as it may make people feel ill at ease. Use last **names** and appropriate titles until specifically invited to use first names. It is proper to shake hands with everyone to whom you are introduced, both men and women; the appropriate response to an introduction is "Pleased to meet you".

Time and punctuality

British people are very strict when it comes to punctuality. In Britain people make a great effort to arrive **on time**, so it is considered **impolite** to be late, **even with by few minutes**. If you are delayed, **be sure to inform the person you are meeting**. Here are some situations when you are obliged to be on time, as well as some situations when it is advisable:

- For **formal dinners, lunches, or appointments** you always come at the exact time appointed.
- For **public meetings, plays, concerts, movies, sporting events, classes, church services, and weddings**, it's best to arrive a few minutes early.
- You can arrive **any time** during **the hours specified** for teas, receptions and cocktail parties.

The British often use expressions such as **"drop in anytime"** and **"come see me soon"**. However, do not take these **literally**. To be on the safe side, always telephone before visiting someone at home. If you receive **a written invitation** to an event that says **"RSVP"**, you should respond to the sender as soon as possible, whether you are going to attend or not.



Body language and dress code

British people are not very keen on displaying affection in public. Hugging, kissing and touching are usually reserved for family members and very close friends. You should also avoid talking loudly in public or going to extremes with hand gestures during the course of communication. The British like a certain amount of personal space. Do not stand too close to another person or put your arm around someone's shoulder.

When it comes to clothes, there are no limits and restrictions on how to dress. Just make sure that you respect the general rules when in formal situations. Observation will reveal that people in larger cities dress more formally, especially in London. Men and women wear wools and tweeds for casual occasions. Slacks, sweaters and jackets are appropriate for men and women. Do not wear a blazer to work -- it is country or weekend wear. On formal occasions, always select an outfit that fits the dress code. When attending a holiday dinner or cultural event, such as a concert or theatre performance, it is best to dress formally.

General advice

Men should open doors for women and stand when a woman enters a room, although it is generally accepted for men and women both to hold the door open for each other, depending on who goes through the door first.

It is important to respect the British desire for privacy. Don't ask personal questions about family background and origin, profession, marital status, political preferences or money issues. It is considered extremely impolite to violate a queue, so never push ahead in a line. It is also considered very rude to try to sound British or mimic their accent.

Remember that humour is ever-present in English life. It is often self-deprecating, ribbing, sarcastic, sexist or racist. Try not to take offense.

Cultural etiquette dictates that when invited to someone's home, you should bring a small gift for the hostess. Give flowers, chocolates, wine, champagne or books. Feel free to express your gratitude and delight with the visit on the next day with a note or a telephone call.



Women's rules

Women in Britain are entitled to equal respect and status as men, both at work and daily life. The British have the habit to use 'affectionate' names when addressing someone, so do not take any offense if they call you love, dearie, or darling. These are commonly used and not considered rude.

It is acceptable, but may be misconstrued, for a foreign woman to invite an English man to dinner. It is best to stick with lunch. Also, if you would like to pay for your meal, you should state it at the outset. Remember that when in public, it is proper to cross your legs at the ankles, instead at the knees.

https://www.expatica.com/uk/about/Culture-and-social-etiquette-in-United-Kingdom_106556.html