

# Nations and Culture

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## Some useful Links

Find **word families** with the **Longman** online dictionary  
<https://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/culture>

Link to interesting video on what it means to be British  
[Watch here](#)

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# General Vocabulary

**How can you increase your vocabulary 3 or 4 times?**

Learn **Word Families**

*When you learn a new word, at the same time, learn the other parts of speech (the 'word family'), such as noun, verb, adjective, adverb...*

**culture** (n.)

**cultural** (adj.)

**cultured** (adj.) - well-educated, well-read, intelligent, polite

**culturally** (adv.)

1. Touching a child's head is culturally unacceptable
2. In my culture it is rude to ask someone their age
3. He is a very well-behaved and cultured person

**Great tool to find Word Families** is this online dictionary from Longman

<https://www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/culture>

## More examples

Noun	Person	Adjective
Nation	Nationalist <i>(s.o. who supports their country, often to the exclusion of other nations)</i>	Nationalistic National
Patriotism	Patriot <i>(s.o. who loves their country)</i>	Patriotic
Stereotype <i>(a bias or generalisation, that may not be true)</i>		Stereotypical

## What is culture?

Customs, behaviour, traditions, language, festivals, food, literature, norms, a set of norms, values, a set of values, rituals, social events

Culture **moulds** peoples' lives

Culture **brings harmony** and uniformity to some extent

Many countries have a **fusion of cultures** or a **blend of cultures**



*Other useful expressions to talk about culture....*

*You can substitute the underlined words for any of the words above about culture.*

Culture is **all about** behaviour

It's **a way of life** related to food

It's **the way of** behaving

It's **a set of** behaviours

Culture is **connected to** traditions

It's **related to** our customs

Globalisation **cancels** local cultures

**Passed from** one generation to the next

It's what makes us unique

Cultural diversity

*= a mix of cultures and races in a country or organisation.*

A melting pot

*= a mix of cultures and races in a country or organisation.*

## Nations - what does it mean to be British?

**Integral** (adj.) = important, necessary

Watching football is an integral part of being Spanish!

**Quintessential** (adj.) = the perfect example

A quintessential part of being British is our love of dogs!

*This is a very hard question to answer without using **stereotypes** or **generalisations** that may not be true.*

*In the video, I show 10 stereotypes and ask 'which do you think are true for me?'*

The answers (and answers) were:

1. I queue for the bus T
2. I live in England F
3. I don't talk to people on the train T
4. I drink tea at 11 T
5. I speak like the queen F. (RP)
6. I value diversity T
7. I carry an umbrella everywhere F
8. I drink tea at 5 F
9. I value democracy T
10. I eat fish and chips F

T - True

F = False

## How can we learn about other countries?

We can learn from the Internet and also from reading books.

When we visit another country that is a chance to learn about that nation and its culture.

At times, we may meet nationals living or travelling abroad, and we can learn about their culture directly from watching their behaviour and listening to them.

I learn lots about other countries by listening to radio programmes about those countries.

Probably the most powerful way to learn about another country is to live or work there. You pick up so much more when you are participating in everyday life there.



## Sample Answers

*Notice, my speech is not in perfect sentences. If you write your answers out in perfect sentences, it will not sound natural, it will sound like you are a book!*

**Avoid** writing your answer out first, before speaking it.

### Q1. Keith, why do we have to preserve cultures?

***This is an interesting question, because the question assumes we have to preserve culture. You can disagree with this assumption, if you want! Don't feel you have to agree with the examiner!***

**A1.**

Well, I think there are **several aspects** of our culture that are **well worth preserving** and some of those are traditional aspects.

I think, you know, customs around birthday celebrations, wedding celebrations, Christmas celebrations,

**the way that we** bring together family to celebrate certain days in our culture, is a really good thing to do,

and one that we should **make an effort to** preserve because I think it helps bring family unity and **stronger bonding** within the society.

**At the same time**, there are certain aspects of culture that maybe we don't have to preserve.

Its inevitable for me, I think culture is **fluid** and forever changing, and to try and **stick rigidly to** tradition doesn't really work either.

So, we have to be **a little bit** flexible in our approach to culture and not preserve things just **for the sake of** preserving them.

**Q2. Keith, do you have any national heritage in your country?**

**A2.**

It's a very good question and I think the answer is **yes we do**.

For example, there is a very, very famous monument, **if you like**, or an area called Stonehenge.

It's **a historical site**. It's actually **preserved by UNESCO** as a heritage site.

It's an area that dates back, and **I am by no means an expert**, but I think it dates back thousands of years and it's just a group of \_\_\_\_\_ or stones,

and some people think it was **an area where** the Pagans **would** pray to Gods and other scientists and anthropologists have different ideas.

I think **another aspect of** our heritage in the UK is our music,

and going back to the Beatles, who were hugely popular in the 1960s,

and the more contemporary bands like Oasis or Blur, who were all the rage in the 1990s,

dating up to even today where you've got some famous rappers who are British

and the name of, the name of the one I am thinking about **has just slipped my mind**, but not to worry.

So, I think music also is actually an interesting part of the **national heritage** in my country.

**Q3. Keith, how has globalisation affected local culture over the years?**

***With general questions like this, it can help you to be very specific and to choose one area to focus on.***

**A3.**

Well, I think an interesting part of local cultures that has changed is food, and the **whole food industry**.

Globalisation has created **international food chains**, lots of **franchises** of restaurants such as MacDonald's and KFC,

typically, kind of, not good quality food and these have **penetrated countries and local cultures** all over the world,

causing local people often **to opt for** the globalised, international food rather than their local food,

and so as cooking and recipes used **to get handed down** from generation to generation, now, many local recipes are disappearing.

People are going to the fast food restaurants and it's having a really negative impact on **local cuisine**

and the **whole culinary traditions** around cooking and preparing food in families in local cultures.

So, I think that's an important area where globalisation has impacted local cultures.