

OH, THOSE ENGLISHMEN!

'Do your own thing'



The 'Brits' are generally not tall, dark and handsome. They come in all shapes and sizes, even outsizes, probably due to a steady chips-with-everything diet. Anyway, the last thing the English worry about is their looks, especially on holiday. Your average Englishman insists on wearing brown socks and matching string vest to

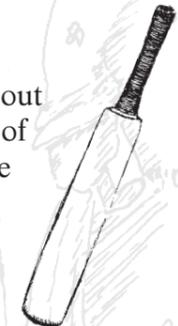


the beach, with towel, swimming-trunks, tea thermos and Dick

Francis novel in a Woolworth's plastic bag. 'The wife' in straw hat, voluminous floral skirt and sleeveless top carries the sun-tan lotion and a copy of 'Woman's Weekly', as the happy couple make their way across the pebbles towards a stack of deck-chairs

(60p per hour).

They are far from well dressed and rumoured not to be very fussy about personal grooming, but to compensate the English have plenty of charm, character and the world's best sense of humour. They are always the first to make fun of themselves. So what if the Continentals are laughing. Do they know how to make a good, strong cup of tea? Can they tell one end of a cricket bat from the other?



We are talking about the population of a relatively small island, which has dominated the world scene for centuries and ruled over a large Empire while bravely fighting off invaders. Perhaps they can be forgiven their eccentricities, as they stubbornly continue to drive on the left, enjoy their pint of beer, keep to ounces and inches and 'do their own thing', regardless.

paragraph 1

handsome
shape
size
probably
due to
anyway
looks
average
wearing
string vest
towel
trunks
straw
skirt
sleeveless
carry
sun-tan lotion
make their way
pebble
towards

stilig
form
storlek
förmodligen
på grund av
i alla fall
utseende
genomsnittlig
iklädd
brynja
handduk
byxor
halm
kjol
ärmlös
bära
solkräm
ger sig av
småsten
i riktning mot

paragraph 2

rumoured
fussy
grooming
sense of
make fun of
bat
century
rule
bravely
forgive
stubbornly
pint
ounce
inch
regardless

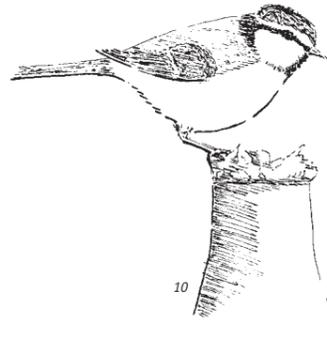
ryktet går
petig
vård
känsla för
skämta med
slagträ
århundrade
härska
tappert
förlåta
envist
= 0.5683 liter
= 28g
= 2.54cm, tum
utan hänsyn

paragraph 3



We've gone metric

'We're going metric inch by inch!'



10

The gentle bubbling of water in the 'tea's-made' for a nice 'cuppa' starts the typical working day in an English home. The man of the house replaces his striped pyjamas with dark suit and 'old boys' tie, before drawing the curtains. His other half in her slippers and dressing-gown, fries the bacon and eggs... a greasy 'heart attack on the plate'! She prefers museli and yoghurt, as recommended by the 'Weight Watchers'. The milkman calls to deliver the daily 'pinta'. Mrs Britannia needs one extra pint and a small carton of cream.

"A bit colder this morning... not as windy as last week."
 "Quite nippy, isn't it."
 "I'd like half a dozen eggs and a sliced loaf today.
 We're out of bread, I've just realised."
 "White as usual?"
 "Yes please."

15 By now our bread-winner is off to work, armed with brief-case and broily. The weather forecast mentioned an area of depression coming in from Ireland to the west. Threatening grey clouds are more than likely to gang up overhead. "Just a spot of rain!"



paragraph 1 **replace**
striped
suit
tie
curtain
slipper
dressing-gown
fry
greasy
plate
prefer
weight
 paragraph 2 **nippy**

byta ut
 randig
 kostym
 slips
 gardin
 toffel
 morgonrock
 steka
 fet
 tallrik
 föredra
 vikt
 kyligt

paragraph 3 **sliced loaf**
out of
realise
as usual
arm
brief-case
broily
forecast
mention
threatening
cloud
likely
spot

skivad limpa
 slut på
 fatta
 som vanligt
 beväpna
 portfölj
 paraply
 prognos
 nämna
 hotande
 moln
 troligtvis
 droppe

Mental Floss

- When do you use dental floss?
- What do you wear in bed - spotted (prickiga) pyjamas?
- What is the man saying to his doctor or dentist?
- How do you keep awake in class?
- What is the Queen thinking?
- How amusing (roande) are Swedish stamps and which is your favourite?



©The Post Office
 Reproduced by kind permission of the Post Office
 All rights reserved

In spite of efforts by 'the campaign for equality', all know their place in the office hierarchy, from the Chief Executive Officer, "I'll have my coffee in here," to the humble tea boy, "Right Sir, one sugar, Sir." Our gent takes it all for granted and keeps a 'stiff upper lip'.

Meanwhile back at home the curlers are out, dishes washed, fashion page read and some 'white elephants' sorted out for Saturday morning's car boot sale. 'The Mrs' makes time to pop in to Jane next door for a chat.

"How is George getting on after his hip operation?"
 "He's still moaning at times, but it's not too bad."
 "Did you hear the neighbour's new dog barking last night?"
 "This used to be such a quiet road."
 "Well, we turn a deaf ear, you can't be too careful these days."

Her part-time job as a dinner-lady at school starts at 11.45 a.m., another chance to gossip. Some children need a firm hand, others the motherly, soft touch.

paragraph 1 **in spite of**
effort
equality
executive
humble
take for granted
keep a stiff upper lip
 paragraph 2 **meanwhile**
curler
dish
fashion
white elephant

trots
 ansträngning
 jämlikhet
 verkställande
 ödmjuk
 ta för givet
 förbli oberörd
 under tiden
 papiljott
 tallrik
 mode
 onyttig sak

paragraph 3 **boot**
pop in
chat
hip
moan
neighbour
bark
turn a deaf ear
 paragraph 4 **part-time**
gossip
firm
soft touch

bagagelucka
 titta in
 pratstund
 höft
 klaga
 granne
 skälla
 slå dövörat till
 halvtid
 prat om ditt och datt
 bestämd
 mjukt handlag



This material is Crown Copyright. Used with permission of the DETR 2000.

Hearty Breakfast
 Compare this breakfast plate with yours.
 What was ordered and what might you leave?
 How many eggs a week do you eat and how are they served - raw?

Constant barking

- Have you ever had problems with a barking dog?
- Who is the loudest member of your household?
- How do you tackle noisy neighbours - earplugs, deaf ears or confrontation?
- How true is it that old dogs can't be taught new tricks?
- Why do dogs bark?

bark skälla avoid undvika



The rush-hour tube is crowded on the way home. Polite friendliness is still the Englishman's way. He's only too ready to apologise, when squeezing past. "Excuse me, please..." "Sorry, dear..." The mark of a real gentleman is to offer his seat to the elderly lady on the bus. "After you, love." "Take it easy." Keep smiling, even if you tread in dog's muck on the pavement. It's good luck if you don't grumble. After all, one is used to suffering bomb alerts, burst pipes, strikes and never-ending queues.

Dinner is waiting, steaming hot on the table, slippers by the door.

"Had a good day?"

"Not bad darling, busy as usual. And you?"

"Just had a sort-out. I'm going to get rid of that old, grey cardigan of yours tomorrow."

"You're joking! My favourite, warm, baggy, hand-knitted by Mother..."

Oh well, Manchester United are playing West Ham, followed by a cosy pub night with mates.

Sunday brings the 'roast', wading through the newspapers and colour supplements, perhaps a family outing or nodding off in front of a video.

"This is the life. Why can't everyone be like me?"



paragraph 1
tube
crowded
polite
apologise
squeeze past
elderly
tread
muck
pavement
grumble
suffer
burst
queue

tunnelbana
överfull
artig
be om ursäkt
tränga sig förbi
äldre
trampa
lort
trottoar
klaga
lida
spruckna
kö

paragraph 2
steam
busy
get rid of
baggy
knitted
cosy
mate
paragraph 3
roast
wade through
supplement
nod off

ånga
flitig
göra sig av med
säckig
stickad
mysig
polare
stek
plöja igenom
bilaga
somna

Discussion

Discuss in pairs.

Report your partner's ideas to the class, adding your comments.

- 1 Describe the look of an English person whose dress you have noticed.
- 2 What advantages (fördelar) can you see in having the milk delivered in bottles to your doorstep? Would it work in Sweden?
- 3 What do you usually have for breakfast?
- 4 Will you order a 'full, cooked breakfast'; sausage, beans, tomatoes, mushrooms, fried bread, bacon and egg or kippers (slags rökt sill) next time you stay at the Grand Hotel in Brighton?
- 5 Do you always carry an umbrella, even when you go skiing?! Why?
- 6 How would you react if you were offered a seat on a crowded tube in Westminster?
- 7 What is your idea of a perfect Sunday? Number in order of preference, giving reasons.

- to sleep the day away?
- have a long lie-in and read the paper in bed?
- put your feet up?
- get up at dawn (gryning) and mow the lawn? (klippa gräsmattan)
- invite some friends over for a meal?
- hang an 'out' notice on the door and draw the curtains?
- go for a brisk (rask) walk or jog?
- wash the Volvo?
- go for a ride in the car?

If not, what sort of Sunday do you usually (vanligen) have? You don't need to be too honest (ärlig)!

Write a short description (beskrivning) of your Sunday.

Expressions (uttryck)

Find the end of each sentence.

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|
| She insists on | 1 | a | leaves much to be desired. |
| He hurt himself but tried to | 2 | b | washing his socks. |
| She takes it for granted | 3 | c | when she sings out of tune. |
| He stubbornly continues | 4 | d | the world's best dressed. |
| His personal appearance | 5 | e | keep a stiff upper lip. |
| The English are not | 6 | f | to always carry an umbrella. |
| We turn a deaf ear | 7 | g | that the boy brings her coffee. |

Find other expressions in the text for these phrases.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 8 larger than normal | 11 laugh at |
| | |
| 9 do as you like | 12 pretend you can't hear..... |
| | |
| 10 walk along | 13 a light shower |
| | |

Debate

'The mark of a real gentleman is to offer his seat to a lady'.

Give your opinion. Use these conversation linkers.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| I couldn't agree with you more, and... | According to my experience... |
| I disagree completely... | I don't believe a word of it, and... |
| That's absolute rubbish, and... | In my view... |

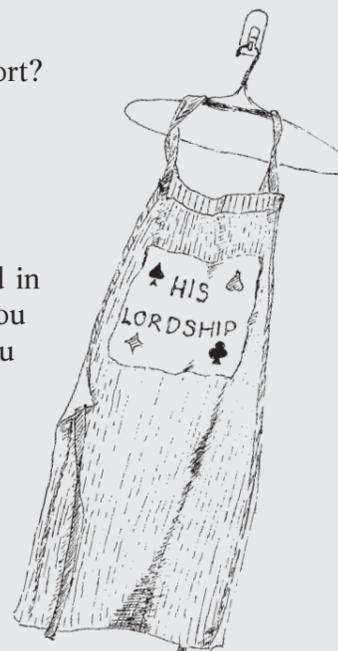
agree	samtycka	experience	erfarenhet
rubbish	smörja	believe	tro
according to	enligt	view	åsikt

Pair work

- 1 What would you take to a car boot sale (perhaps behind your husband's back)?
- 2 What would you say to a milkman calling at your door?
- 3 Should dogs be allowed at work?
- 4 What's the best way to travel to work? Public transport?
- 5 How do you avoid....?

Feminine forms

'Mrs Britannia' - find four names for her that are used in the text. Which would you prefer to be called if you married an Englishman and moved to England? Do you know any more - sweetheart?!



Find the female versions of these words.

- | | | | |
|------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1 King | Queen | 6 Hero | ..... |
| 2 Emperor | ..... | 7 Dog | ..... |
| 3 Bachelor | ..... | 8 Heir | ..... |
| 4 Nephew | ..... | 9 Manager | ..... |
| 5 Steward | ..... | 10 Gander | ..... |

'What's good for the goose, is good for the gander'.

What does it mean? Explain in your own words

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1 apologise | say you are sorry | 5 offer | ..... |
| 2 equality | ..... | 6 crowded | ..... |
| 3 size | ..... | 7 prefer | ..... |
| 4 bread-winner | ..... | 8 replace | ..... |



LISTEN AND ANSWER

Not for all the tea in China...

Listen to the dialogue and find the following information.

- 1 The name of the dog.
- 2 Where does Grandma sometimes smoke?
- 3 How many cups of tea does Grandma have in the story?
- 4 How did Henry VIII mount his horse?
- 5 Under what tree was the Emperor sitting?
- 6 Describe the colour change in the Emperor's drink.
- 7 What cigarettes does Grandma smoke?
- 8 Who, according to Grandma, invented the computer?

How would you deal with (hantera) a child like Laura?

Why do/don't you think story telling is important to kids?

What stories do you remember being told when you were young?

Fill in the vowels (vokaler)

The words are taken from the 'Not for all the tea in China' taped dialogue.

br__ze	l__ves	anc__nt	fl__ted
th__ght	en__gh	t__cher	ind__d
m__nt (menade)	m__nt (bestiga),	th__sand	y__rs
d__l	sw__p	ab__t	p__r (hälla)

**Rule Britannia**

*Rule, Britannia! Britannia rule the waves;
Britons never, never, never shall be slaves.*

Words by James Thomson 1700 - 1748.

Music by Thomas Arne 1740 - 1786.

Ten out of ten for superb service

Highbury milkman, Richard Carpong, does more than just deliver the daily pinta. To many of his customers he is postman, handyman and their only regular visitor. Take 88-year-old Miss Young. 'I am disabled and he brings my milk and groceries right into the house and then takes my letters and posts them,' she says. 'Only the other day when we had a power cut he called in to check I was OK. I can't praise him enough.'

Danny Twyman, his manager at Associated Dairies, says customers often telephone asking Richard to call in. 'It is mainly to do little things, like opening jars or loosening the cap on the bleach, especially the older people with arthritic hands.'

A milkman for four years, Richard, 28, has to leave his flat near Tower Bridge at 3.30am on weekdays and often isn't home until mid-afternoon, and even later on Saturdays when he has to collect the money from the 450 homes on his round. Richard, whose wife Belinda is expecting their first child next month, admits that the all-weather early starts can make the milkman's lot quite hard and lonely, but he's not planning to stop. 'I have suggested to some of my friends who are unemployed that they become milkmen, but they all say that they couldn't hack it. At the end of the day it is a hard job, but it's what you make of it that counts.' Julie Yorke

© Evening Standard

What do Richard's customers think of him? What extra jobs does he do? What do you think his wife says about Richard?

How would you feel about getting up when Richard does? What would you order (beställa) from the smiling milkman? How is your milk delivered?

What jobs need doing in your house? Who gives you superb service and how? What are your views (åsikt) on solving (lösa) unemployment?

'Milk it!'

Highbury
customer
handyman
disabled
grocery
power cut
check
praise
associated
dairy
jar

distrikt i London
kund
allt i allo
rörelsehindrad
specerier
strömavbrott
kolla
beröm
förenade
mejeri
glasburk

loosen
cap
bleach
arthritis
round
expect
admit
lonely
suggest
unemployed
hack
count

lossa
lock
blekmedel
ledinflammation
runda
vänta
erkänna
enslig
föreslå
arbetslös
stå ut med
räkna

How long does it take to make this dish (rätt)?

Name the spices (krydda) and herbs (ört) in the ingredients.

How much gravlax do you need for four people?

How is the salmon prepared before serving?

How do you prepare a gravlax dish?

What could you teach the Waitrose chef?

If you invited the class for supper (kvällsmål) tonight, how many of the ingredients would you have in your cupboard (skåp)?

Is it one of your favourite meals or do you prefer... ?

Why do you think it's so popular in England?

cure	grava
cream	grädde
mustard	senap
flavour	smak
caper	kapris
cornichons	ättiksgurka
grind	mala
tbsp (tablespoon)	matsked
drain	låta rinna av
chop	hacka
tender	mjuk
meanwhile	under tiden
sachet	portionspåse
stir	röra
cover	täcka
chill	kyla
strip	remsa

GRAVLAX & POTATO SALAD

Preparation time: 10 minutes Cooking time: 15 minutes
Serves 4 as a light lunch

Originally from Scandinavia, gravlax is salmon cured with salt, dill, lemon juice, black pepper and sugar. In this quick and easy salad, it is complemented by new potatoes in a creamy mustard and dill dressing and the piquant flavour of capers and cornichons.

1 x 500g pack baby new potatoes
salt
45ml (3tbsp) mayonnaise
30ml (2tbsp) crème fraîche
1 x 200g pack Waitrose Gravlax with mustard dill sauce
freshly ground black pepper
15ml (1tbsp) capers, drained and chopped
8 cornichons, drained and finely chopped

1. Scrub the potatoes. Boil in salted water for 10-15 minutes or until tender.
2. Meanwhile, make the dressing by mixing together the mayonnaise, crème fraîche, sachets of mustard dill sauce and black pepper.
3. Drain the potatoes and leave to cool for 10 minutes. Stir in the dressing while the potatoes are still warm. Cover and chill.
4. Cut the gravlax into thin strips. Bring the potatoes to room temperature, stir well, then mix in the capers, cornichons and gravlax.

