

FANS IN THE UK

We interviewed fifteen football fans living or studying in the UK. We asked questions about football, living in the UK, the best way to learn English, the weather and much more.

Question 10: British Politeness – Is this true or a stereotype?

Before you watch

Activity 1: In my country?

Find out what people do in different countries. Are the statements below true or false for your partner? Make the statements into questions and find out.

e.g. In my country, people say ‘thank you’ for almost everything.

“Do people in your country say ‘thank you’ for almost everything?”

In my country...

- | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. In my country, people are polite. | True | False |
| 2. In my country, people say thank you for almost everything. | True | False |
| 3. In my country, people ask “How are you?”. | True | False |
| 4. In my country, people queue up to wait for a bus or train. | True | False |
| 5. In my country, people wait for everyone to get off the bus or train, before getting on. | True | False |
| 6. In my country, people say ‘excuse me’ before asking a question. | True | False |
| 7. In my country, people say ‘sorry’ all the time. | True | False |
| 8. In my country, people say ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ a lot. | True | False |
| 9. In my country, people make small talk. | True | False |
| 10. In my country, people don’t say what they think if it is negative or possibly offensive. | True | False |
| 11. In my country, people share the bill equally, when eating in a restaurant. | True | False |
| 12. In my country, people respect their elders. | True | False |
| 13. In my country, people bring a gift to a party or dinner. | True | False |
| 14. In my country, people offer to clear the table and wash-up at the end of a dinner party. | True | False |
| 15. In my country, people send ‘thank you’ cards after a party. | True | False |
| 16. In my country, people are very sociable. | True | False |

While you watch

Activity 3: Fill in the gaps in the transcript

Watch the video again and fill in the gaps with adjectives you hear.

Amnah They are _____¹ and they are more _____². They are _____³, yeah.

Jorge British people are _____⁴ and polite and, they, you know... they respect your space and expect you to do likewise.

Martin Well it depends on the type of environment you're in. The north is a bit more _____⁵ and you can see that in people. A bit more _____⁶.

Albert In cities, people usually have lots of stuff to do and that's why they are thinking of their own, maybe... problems. Their own schedule, but when you go out of the city, people are really really polite. They are very polite. Everybody says "hi", "how are you", and if you ask, for example, how to get to any place they will show you and that's true, they are very polite.

Minji At first, I thought they were over polite, but I like that. I like their _____⁷ way and their polite way. Like, when I'm on the bus, when we bump into each other, they always say 'sorry', 'excuse me'. And every time, I hear 'sorry' a hundred times a day. It's like over polite, but it's OK, it's really _____⁸.

Asier I think the English people are so polite and so _____⁹. This is true.

Jaime The people are really polite with you – 'please'... 'thank you'... 'sorry' every time.

Mansour Everyone, he starts to speak with you and he thanks you and he is sorry about something he didn't do it or something like that. So I think the people is very polite.

Farid People in Britain are very polite and I am happy with them, they are really polite. And _____¹⁰ as well.

Valentini It's just a _____¹¹ ordinary society. You'll find polite people; you'll find _____¹² people. The way you treat them, they treat you.