

1B | Britishness

SPEAKING & VOCABULARY: self-image

1 Complete the sentences in column A with a phrase from column B.



- | A | B |
|--|--|
| 1 I think of myself as <i>a Scot</i> , | a <i>an old-age pensioner – I'm too busy for that.</i> |
| 2 I would describe myself | b <i>as quite fit for my age.</i> |
| 3 I don't see myself as | c <i>but I've lived in England for 25 years.</i> |
| 4 I'm proud to be the | d <i>grandmother of two very clever girls.</i> |
| 5 <i>My family</i> is the most | e <i>important thing to me.</i> |
| 6 My neighbours probably see | f <i>live in such a nice house.</i> |
| 7 I consider myself lucky to | g <i>me as a very friendly person.</i> |

2 Change the words in italics in exercise 1 to make sentences that are true for you. Compare your sentences with a partner.

I think of myself as a European, but I've lived in the US for the last ten years.

READING

- 1 Read the article about a test for people who want to become British citizens. Which of the people 1–8 think the test is a good idea?
- 2 Read the article again and answer the questions.
 - 1 Which European country already has a test for new citizens?
 - 2 What does Clive Morgan want the government to spend money on?
 - 3 What does Jon Snow think is dead?
 - 4 What has become a dirty word?
 - 5 Where does Claire Rayner come from?
 - 6 What do British people like doing in bars?
 - 7 Who came from Uganda?
 - 8 Who thinks that Britain needs more immigrants?
- 3 Do you think the test is a good idea? Why or why not?

Are you British enough?



The government has announced that it is to introduce a test about Britain and British culture for people who want to become British citizens. Here are some reactions:

- 1 I once read that the rock star Malcolm McLaren described being British as 'singing Karaoke in bars, eating Chinese noodles, wearing Prada and Nike, holidaying in Florida and Ibiza ...' Why do we need to test that? (Jared Steele, London nightclub owner)
- 2 People say they come from Yorkshire, Lancaster, or London, rather than coming from Britain as a whole. There's a certain snottiness in trying to define Britishness. If anybody asked, I would say I am a Londoner and a European. (Claire Rayner, writer)
- 3 I think 'Britishness' has died off in my lifetime and nothing has replaced it. When I was a child, Britishness was Winston Churchill and beefeaters. Now it's an irrelevant concept. (Jon Snow, TV newsreader)
- 4 Why do we need a test? Most people that I know would fail it. Why don't we welcome immigrants with open arms? (Penny Porter, Church of England priest)
- 5 My family is very proud to be British. We came here from Uganda in the 1970s. In those days, they didn't have a test, but I think it's a good idea. People are always asking: What does this country do for me? But a better question is: What can I do for my country? (Amina Patel, shopkeeper)
- 6 When I think of Britain, I think of the royal family, cricket, warm beer, cheese and cucumber sandwiches and wet weather. Who cares about these things? Why is the government wasting its time and our money on this? They should spend the money on better schools and decent hospitals. (Clive Morgan, rugby player)
- 7 What's the problem with a nationality test? Why all the fuss? In other countries, like Germany, the United States and Australia, you have to pass a test. Britain shouldn't be any different. (Dieter Krugger, investment analyst)
- 8 People forget that Britain used to be great. There was a time when we were proud to wear the Union Jack. What happened to all that good old-fashioned patriotism? It's become a dirty word now, but the true British qualities are still important. Of course, we should test them. (S Sullivan, MBE)



GRAMMAR: subject & object questions

Questions

This is the usual word order in questions:

question word	auxiliary	subject	infinitive
What	does	this country	do for me?
Why	do	we	need a test?

Subject questions

When the question word (*who*, *what*, *which* or *how many*) is the subject of the question, you do not need an auxiliary verb (*do*, *does* or *did*) with the present simple and past simple.

subject	verb
Who	cares about these things?
How many people	describe themselves as British?
What	happened to patriotism?

Object questions

If the question word is the object of a question, you use normal question word order with *do*, *does* or *did*.

object	auxiliary	subject	infinitive
Who	does	he	work for?
What	did	he	say?

➤ SEE LANGUAGE REFERENCE PAGE 14

- 1 Look at the questions in Reading exercise 2. Find four subject questions and four object questions.
- 2 Correct the grammatical mistakes in four of these questions.
 - 1 How many people do live in Scotland?
 - 2 What did happen in 1066?
 - 3 When can the British police arrest you without a reason?
 - 4 What CRE stands for?
 - 5 What number you do dial for the emergency services?
 - 6 Who speaks Cornish?

3 Use the prompts to make questions.

- 1 *Who became Britain's first woman prime minister in 1979?*
 - 1 Who / become / Britain's first woman prime minister / in 1979?
 - 2 Which British political party / use / blue / as its official colour?
 - 3 Why / the policeman / stand / outside the house / in the photo above?
 - 4 What / happen / on Guy Fawkes' Day?
 - 5 When / women in Britain / vote / in political elections / for the first time?
 - 6 Which / English king / have / six wives?

SPEAKING

- 1 Work in pairs. Turn to page 126. Choose the correct answer to the questions in Grammar exercises 2 and 3. If you do not know the answer, guess!
- 2 Now work with a new partner. You are each going to see the answers for one exercise. Tell your partner if his/her answers are correct.

A: Turn to page 130. B: Turn to page 129.
- 3 Work in groups. Prepare six questions that test knowledge of your own national culture. Use the examples in Grammar exercises 2 and 3 and these topics to help you.

everyday life famous people history
important places law multiculturalism
politics regions

- 4 Work with students from another group. Ask them your test questions.