

# Test Your Speaking & Listening Skills

## Discussion Questions

### Englishness



*Ask and answer the questions with a partner or small group:*

1. What do you know about English people? Do you know many English people? Do they match the definitions of Englishness in this course? What do you think are the essential characteristics of English people? Is it even possible to define a whole nation of people with a few characteristics, or do we just end up with unrepresentative stereotypes?
2. How do English people differ from people in your country? What differences can you list – both positive and negative? Have you ever been to England? If yes, what differences did you notice? How did you feel living there? Did you find it easy or difficult to get used to English people? Why? If no, would you like to visit England – or live there temporarily or permanently? Why? / Why not?
3. Do you have a good sense of humour? Do you think that the English deserve their great reputation for humour? Which English comedy shows / films / comedians / books, etc. do you find funny? What do you like about them? Is there anything about them that makes them typically English?
4. What is your experience of English food and drink? Do you like it? Why? / Why not? How does it compare to food from your country? What English food and drink brands are available to buy where you live? Do you ever buy them?
5. What examples of Englishness do you see in the media that you have access to, e.g. music, films, TV, radio, newspapers, magazines, websites, etc.? Which people best define what *you* think of as Englishness?
6. Would you like to be English? Why? / Why not? What do you think would be the advantages and disadvantages? Would there be more positive points than negative ones? What problems can you imagine encountering that you don't normally have in your culture?
7. Are you easily embarrassed? What is the most embarrassing thing that you have ever done? What happened? Why was it embarrassing? How do you usually avoid embarrassing situations? How successful are you?
8. Are you a straight-talker? Do you say what you mean and mean what you say? What about the English people that you know? Could your friends possibly describe you as two-faced? What would happen if one day all English people suddenly began speaking directly and acting in a confident manner?