

# Test Your Speaking & Listening Skills

## Are You English? – Quiz 1

### Englishness



*Discuss each situation with a partner. What would you do or say? What do you think an English person would do or say? Check the answers and discuss whether they match your perception and experience of English people:*

Answers:

a) *What would you do when...?*      b) *What would an English person do when...?*

*An English person would:*

1. keep their head down and pray that the taxi driver does not try to engage them in conversation.
2. not complain, but make a mental note to go somewhere else for their haircut next time.
3. feel deeply hurt and curse them quietly under their breath, so that they can't hear them.
4. wave and smile enthusiastically and mouth "Thank you!"
5. let them push in, but seethe inwardly and mutter something about "There's a queue here, you know" to the person behind. They would make sure this is not loud enough for the queue jumper to hear.
6. worry about the seemingly tremendous rise in the rate of immigration, and complain about it with their close friends, but not say anything and act in a friendly but distant manner if they happen to have any contact with any of the foreign families.
7. begin the queue by standing close to the bus stop sign. They would not, under any circumstances, sit on the bench provided, in case somebody else comes and takes their place at the head of the queue.
8. feel terribly embarrassed, but pretend it was part of a pre-planned little dance by skipping or jogging for a few more steps.
9. feel utterly humiliated, but get up quickly and pretend that it did not happen, that nobody saw them fall down, and that – in fact – they do not exist.
10. stand and wait, safe in the knowledge that their place in the "queue" has been noticed and logged by the bar staff and all the other waiting customers, and that they will get served in the correct order.

a) *What would you say when...?*      b) *What would an English person say when...?*

*An English person would say:*

1. "Sorry."
2. "Thank you."
3. "Thank you."
4. "Thank you."
5. "You're not wrong!" It would be rude to disagree with somebody's comments about the weather, which are no more than a friendly, non-threatening greeting used to break the awkward silence.
6. "It was OK."
7. "Not bad, thanks. You?"
8. "Not bad, thanks. You?"
9. "Fine thanks. And you?" This is the correct standard answer to this question. The person asking is probably not really interested in your ailments or problems!
10. "Never mind. Worse things happen at sea." / "Better luck next time."