

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:

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

1. you take a taxi.
2. you are at the hairdressers and your hairdresser doesn't do a good job.
3. you are driving and you stop at a zebra crossing to let somebody cross the road, but they don't wave and smile to thank you.
4. you're standing at a zebra crossing waiting to cross the road and a car stops for you.
5. you're in a queue and somebody (probably a foreigner) tries to push in ahead of you.
6. a foreign family move into the house next door – to add to the foreign family across the road and another one two doors down.
7. you arrive at the bus stop and you are the first one there.
8. you trip slightly as you are walking down the road.
9. you slip and fall flat on your back in the pool changing room.
10. you go to the bar in an English pub and wish to get served.

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

1. you are on a busy bus or train and a stranger accidentally touches your shoulder.
2. you are in a shop and hand your purchase(s) to the cashier to scan.
3. you are in a shop and hand money to the cashier.
4. you are in a shop and receive your change from the cashier.
5. a stranger at the bus stop tuts and says to you, "Nice weather for ducks!"
6. somebody asks you if you enjoyed the party – and you had a great time.
7. somebody asks you how you feel – and you feel really good.
8. somebody asks you how you feel – and you feel a bit down.
9. somebody asks "How are you?"
10. you want to show sympathy to somebody who feels disappointed.

Results: how many times did your answer match the English person's answer?

1-5 times: You are not English, but it is not impossible to learn the wacky ways of the English.

6-10 times: There are some English characteristics in you! Keep going!

11-15 times: You are doing well and may yet become fully English in the future!

16-19 times: Englishness is within your grasp! A world of cringe-making embarrassment awaits you!

20 times: You *are* English and you didn't need a quiz to tell you that, did you? Never mind.