

# Moaning, drinking and queuing are what make us British

Britain's national traits include getting drunk, moaning and taking pleasure in the misfortune of others, according to a survey that paints a grim picture of our culture.

By Matthew Moore

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Our top national characteristic is talking about the weather, just ahead of a passion for queuing, but other qualities in the top ten are not so endearing; sarcasm, a love of television soaps and curtain twitching were all identified as central to the British identity.

Obsession with class was also high on the list, along with more modern ills such as pandering to political correctness and road rage.

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Working long hours, fascination with property prices and the love of bargains also made it into the top 50, suggesting that our behaviour during the financial crisis may be more ingrained than we think.

But it was all bad news. Stiff upper lip came out at number eight in the poll, with respondents also picking out a reluctance to complain, good sense of humour and the ability to laugh at ourselves.

The results were based on a study of 5,000 adults who were asked them to pick out the things - good and bad - they believe makes us unique as a nation.

A spokesman for global research company OnePoll.com, which conducted the survey said that despite some of the negative traits identified, Britons were still extremely proud of their country.

"This is a brilliant list of characteristics and some of the observations are absolutely spot on," he said.

"You can't go anywhere or do anything in Britain without someone talking about the weather, and we're almost proud of the fact that we get more rain than anywhere else.

"What this poll demonstrates really well is how proud we are to be British - more than two thirds of respondents said they felt honoured to be a part of this country."

## TOP 50 'TYPICALLY BRITISH' TRAITS

1. Talking about the weather

2. Great at queueing
3. Sarcasm
4. Watching soaps
5. Getting drunk
6. A love of bargains
7. A love of curtain twitching
8. Stiff upper lip
9. Love of all television
10. Moaning
11. Obsession with class
12. Gossiping with neighbours over the garden fence
13. Obsession with the traffic
14. Enjoying other people's misfortune
15. Inability to complain
16. Love of cheap foreign holidays
17. Working long hours
18. A soothing cup of tea to ease worries
19. Eating meat and two veg
20. Looking uncomfortable on the dance floor
21. Feeling uncomfortable when people talk about their emotions
22. Clever sense of humour
23. Obsession with property values
24. Pandering to political correctness
25. Road rage
26. Being unhappy with our weight
27. Wanting a good tan
28. Being proud of where we live
29. Not saying what we mean
30. The ability to laugh at ourselves
31. Washing the car on a Sunday
32. Taking the mickey out of others
33. Asking people about their journey
34. Inability not to comment on how other people bring up their children
35. Jealousy of wealth and success

36. Being overly polite
37. Texting instead of calling
38. An inability to express our emotions
39. Obsession with the Royal Family
40. Fondness for mowing the lawn
41. Love of rambling through the countryside
42. A love of all things deep fried
43. Emulating celebrity lifestyles
44. Leaving things to the last minute
45. Irony
46. Keeping our homes neat and tidy
47. Take decisions and accept the consequences
48. Achieving against all odds
49. Wanting our sportsmen / teams to fail
50. DIY on a Bank Holiday

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pinkie

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People all around the world talk about the weather; so i wouldnt say this is an inherent Brit trait; as far a queuings concerned I wouldnt say they love queuing up; I mean who does? most civilised societies require people to queue up.

Labour cost in the UK is so high;ur practically forced into DIY.

Of all the years I spent in the UK-18 years...im yet to encounter a conversation centered around class! Sure they love taking the mick out of the posh lot; thats a trait ul find all over the world!

No one enjoys mowing the loan;it just has to be done!who else will do it?

Jealousy of wealth and success? that u find everywhere.

I think this list pretty much sums up people all over the world!! The traits which are particulary Brit are Irony and humour.

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How is this a negative picture of our society. The drinking is bad but what else?

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E.R. Mine

11/10/2008 03:03 PM

So a cross next to No.30 for Ethan then.

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Ethan

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5,000 out of a population of over 50 million - representative sample then?

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