

# Stereotypes of GB

There are stereotypes about every country more or less. I wanted to find out, if the stereotypes we have of the British are true. I asked British people on the street, if they match them.

## The weather:

Everyone knows, in Great Britain the weather is mostly bad. It rains a lot and the temperature is cold. But is this true?

When I was packing my things for London, I looked at the weather forecast, to know what I should throw in my suitcase. The diagnosis was simple. It could rain and it's cold. So I packed warm clothes and thought at the layer principle. Our first day, Monday, was like the weather forecast said. It was cold, the wind was blowing and it rained. After some hours in this beautiful city, I knew the stereotype of the bad weather isn't false. The days after were more or less the same. But if I'm honest, there were also some sunbeams. The special phenomenon was that the sun could shine and 5 minutes later it was raining and we wanted the fastest way to the hostel. Generally I would say, that it's not correct, that the weather in GB is always bad. It's only very changeable. And although I packed warm clothes, most of the time I was cold. When I asked the British, most said, that the weather is erratic. That means, you don't know, how the weather in some minutes is.



## Sunburn:

Something that is linked to the weather is the stereotype, that the British get sunburnt very easily. I think you can't say that in general. The skin of the natives isn't accustomed to the sun and so the probability of getting sunburn is much bigger than in other countries. But for example in Switzerland



we have also many people with sensitive skin. So I would say that generally the British have a light skin which could lead to sunburn easier. Most of the people I asked said, that they have to use sun cream and that they're very sensible. But they also said that they hate this stereotype because they think that there are people in other countries with the same skin.

## Afternoon tea:

Everyone knows the stereotype, that the British drink a lot of tea. I read about afternoon tea. It says that many Brits drink at 5 o'clock in the afternoon a cup of tea. However, no one on the street said, that they drink a cup of tea at this time. But a man meant that there are certainly older people who drink this afternoon tea. So I would say that this stereotype isn't totally true. It's a little bit outworn. The fact that the British drink a lot of tea is generally correct. One woman said to me, that she hates tea and she also hates that everyone thinks, that all of the British like tea. Seriously I felt with her... I hate cheese although I'm Swiss.



## **Bad food:**

When I told to a friend that we will go to London, his first comment was: “Watch out! Please don’t starve!” He wanted to say, that the food is bad and I can’t eat it. This wasn’t the only thing I heard from my friends or family. Even our class teacher made a note on this topic. So I was excited to see,



how bad the food really is. And I can assure you it isn’t as bad as everyone said. But I also have to say, that McDonalds is in every country the same, also in the UK. Yes, we ate a lot of fast food and maybe it’s difficult to say how bad the food in Britain really is but I’m sure, this stereotype isn’t true. There are definitely countries with a better kitchen but it’s okay. And what a surprise, I’m still alive. If I asked the British they confirm, they have good food. But this would be a discussion which never ends.

## **Discourtesy:**

Maybe a stereotype which isn’t such common. But have you heard about the fact, that the British are rude? I think I can make this short and say, that this is definitely not true. There were some people who were rude but isn’t this normal in such a big city? There were also so many very polite and helpful people. I would never say, that this stereotype is correct!

