

# United Kingdom



## Introduction

England is one of four distinct regions of the United Kingdom, which also includes Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. England's population is approximately 47 million.

It is important to note that the Scots, Welsh, and Irish are not English, and are often offended when referred to as such. Additionally, citizens of the U.K. do not consider themselves European. Unfortunately, they are usually grouped as such, due in part to their membership in the European Union.

The English are very proud of their heritage and history. Along with their contributions to the world of today, several famous writers came from England. Some of the most famous are Shakespeare, T.S. Eliot, and Chaucer. This century, England has seen many influential daughters and sons. The Beatles, Winston Churchill, and Queen Elizabeth II have all played a tremendous role in England's presence in the modern world.

## Fun Fact

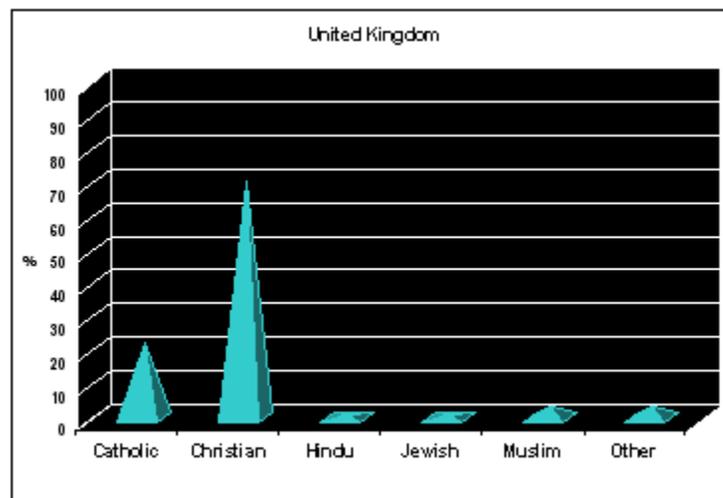
Gambling is very popular in Britain. The British buy more lottery tickets than any other people in the world. It has been estimated that 75% of adults in Britain play the lottery at least once a week.

# Geert Hofstede Analysis Great Britain

[Click Here for Geert Hofstede country scores](#)

The Geert Hofstede analysis for England illustrates their strong feelings towards individualism and masculinity. The power distance and uncertainty avoidance are ranked considerably lower than the first two. Long-term orientation ranks the lowest, indicating that change in England can be achieved more rapidly than in many other countries . [More Details](#)

## Religion in the United Kingdom



\* WORLD FACTBOOK 2002

## Appearance

- Business attire rules are somewhat relaxed in England, but conservative dress is still very important for both men and women.
- Dark suits, usually black, blue, or gray, are quite acceptable.
- Men's shirts should not have pockets; if they do, the pockets should always be kept empty. Additionally, men should wear solid or patterned ties, while avoiding striped ties.
- Men wear laced shoes, not loafers.
- Businesswomen are not as limited to colors and styles as men are, though it is still important to maintain a conservative image.

## Behavior

- Always be punctual in England. Arriving a few minutes early for safety is acceptable.
- Decision-making is slower in England than in the United States; therefore it is unwise to rush the English into making a decision.
- A simple handshake is the standard greeting (for both men and women) for business occasions and for visiting a home.
- Privacy is very important to the English. Therefore asking personal questions or intensely staring at another person should be avoided.
- Eye contact is seldom kept during British conversations.
- To signal that something is to be kept confidential or secret, tap your nose.
- Personal space is important in England, and one should maintain a wide physical space when conversing. Furthermore, it is considered inappropriate to touch others in public.
- Gifts are generally not part of doing business in England.
- A business lunch will often be conducted in a pub and will consist of a light meal and perhaps a pint of ale.
- When socializing after work hours, do not bring up the subject of work.
- When dining out, it is not considered polite to toast those who are older than yourself.

## Communications

- "America and Britain are two nations divided by a common language" *George Bernard* was once quoted as saying.
- In England, English is the official language, but it should be noted that Queen's English and American English are very different.
- Often times ordinary vocabulary can differ between the two countries.
- Loud talking and disruptive behavior should be avoided.

• One gesture to avoid is the V for Victory sign, done with the palm facing yourself. This is a very offensive gesture.

• If a man has been knighted, he is addressed as "Sir and his first name" example: Sir John. If writing a letter, the envelope is addressed "Sir First name and Last name" example: Sir John Roberts.