

# ◇ THE LONDON HERALD ◇

Our team of journalists went to France and to Wales to ask many questions about Britishness. First of all, we need to define what Britishness is: it's the quality of being British, and a way of behaving when you are British.

## GRAMMAR

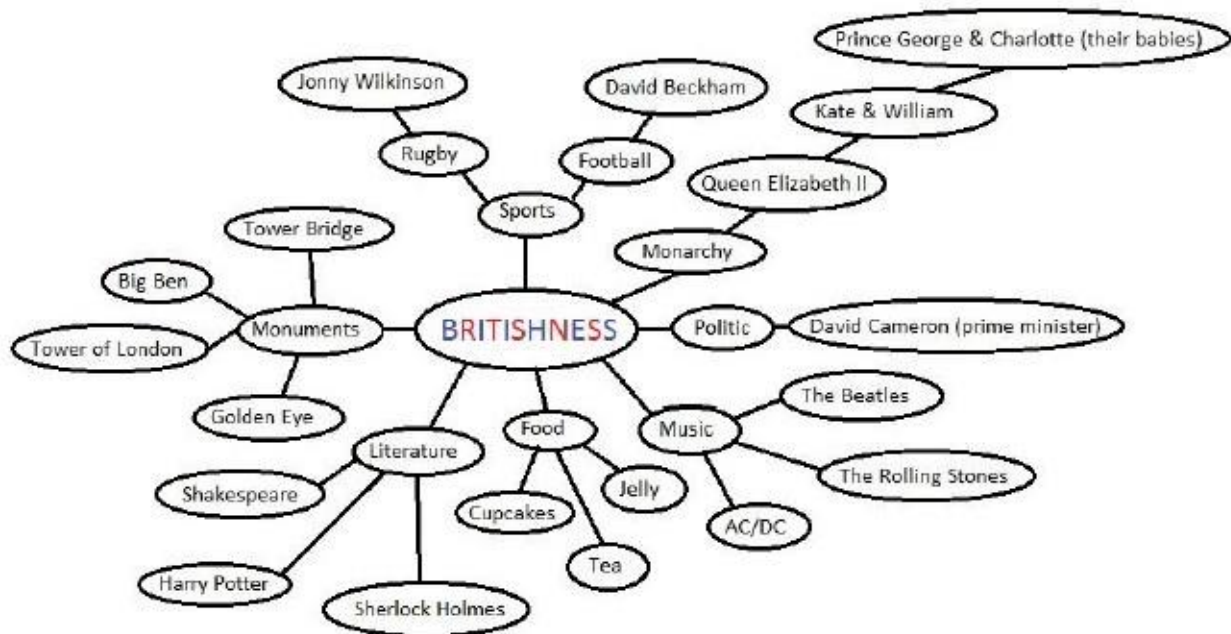
The suffix *-ness* can be added to adjectives to form nouns meaning "the state of being" or "the quality of being".

*darkness* → *the state of being dark*.

*kindness* → *the quality of being kind*.

## A) What the British world is for the French?

We asked a year 11-class to say what comes up to mind when they hear the word British. These are their answers...



We can see that French teenagers have excellent knowledge of the British world even though French people are considered as introverts.

## B) A little bit of geography...



The British are supposed to live in the UK, but the UK is composed of 4 countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, BUT not Southern Ireland, which has been independent since 1921. It means that the British can be either Scottish, Welsh, English and Irish from Northern Ireland.

However, Great-Britain is composed of the same countries except Northern Ireland. It means that the 3 countries which are part of Great-Britain are England, Scotland and Wales.

### Nationalities:

The Scottish, or the Scots, are from Scotland.

The Welsh are from Wales.

The English are from England.

The Irish are from Northern Ireland.

(DON' T FORGE THAT THERE IS A CAPITAL LETTER AT THE BEGINNING OF NATIONALITY AND COUNTRY'S NAME)

## GRAMMAR

To locate:

- Something **is** east/west/north/south **of** something.
- Something **is to the** east/west/north/ south **of** something.

*Wales is west of England and consequently, England is east of Wales.*

### a) True or False

- All the British are English.
- Southern Ireland is part of Great-Britain.
- We can see Irish people in the United Kingdom.

## C. How do they live?

The English language comes from England, but this is the official language of the UK and the first language spoken. Of course, each country of the UK has its own language even if there is a minority of people who speaks it. Most of them are very proud of their different identities, cultures and dialects.

### ENGLAND

**Geography:** England is an island in the North Sea, it's west of Europe. Its capital is London.

**Famous places:** Tower of London and Big Ben.

**Famous people:** David Beckham (footballer), Queen Elizabeth II (Queen of UK), Keira Knightley.

**Institutions:** England is a monarchy and it is run by a prime minister (David Cameron). England dominates the other countries.

### SCOTLAND

**Geography:** Scotland is north of England. Its capital is Edinburgh.

**Famous places:** Edinburgh Castle and St Giles' Cathedral.

**Famous people:** Sean Connery (actor), Calvin Harris (DJ) and Andy Murray (tennis man).

**Institutions:** Since 1999, the Scots have their own political institutions and a full autonomy in many areas thanks to the devolution.

### WALES

**Geography:** Wales is west of England. Its capital is Cardiff.

**Famous places:** Snowdonia and Caernarfon Castle.

**Famous people:** Christian Bale (actor), Catherine Zeta-Jones (actress) and Gareth Bale (footballer).

**Institutions:** Since 1999, they have several institutions: a local government and a National Assembly.

### NORTHERN IRELAND

**Geography:** It's an isle which is west of England and Scotland. Its capital is Belfast.

**Famous places:** Slieve Donard and St Patrick Grave.

**Famous people:** Jamie Dornan (actor), Bono (musician) and Dolores O'Riordan (musician).

**Institutions:** They are an autonomous country with several powers delegated by the Westminster parliament.



Big Ben, London, England



Snowdonia, Wales



St Patrick Grave, Northern Ireland



Edinburgh Castle, Scotland

## D. How British people react when they are called English..

We made a lot of interviews with a lot of people in the United Kingdom, and we asked them how they feel when they are called English.

We noticed that most of them just don't care because they are used to being called like that. But there are also many of them who don't like it and feel disappointed. Bleidd is one of them, we keep his interview because in our opinion, it was the best and the most interesting one.

***The London Herald:*** *Hi! We'd like to ask you some questions, is it possible? What's your name?*

***Bleidd:*** *Yeah sure, my name is Bleidd. I'm from Wales.*

***TLH:*** *Perfect, how will you react if someone calls you English?*

***B:*** *Yr wyf yn sicr yn cael adwaith drwg oherwydd nad wyf yn Saesneg. Mae pobl bob amser yn anghywir, hyd yn oed gyda'r arferiad, mae'n dal I fod yn blino.*

***TLH:*** *Excuse me, what did you say? I don't understand.*

***B:*** *I've spoken Welsh; you see I can speak English but I can also speak my native-land language. I'm not English, I'm British and Welsh. It's not because I speak English that I'm English. Actually, I don't like English people; they always have a profound need to look down on us. They complain about the fact that we speak our own language in our country but where is the problem?*

***TLH:*** *Thank you very much for this interview, your opinion is very interesting.*

