

Attitudes of British People

Conservatism

- In general, the British value continuity over modernity for its own sake.
- There is prestige in living in an obviously old one.
- They have a general sentimental attachment to older, supposedly safer, times.
- Their Christmas cards usually depict scenes from past centuries;
- they like their pubs to look old;
- they were reluctant to change their system of currency.

Being different

- They are rather proud of being different.
- driving on the left-hand side of the road
- The double-decker bus
- Systems of measurement
- everybody in Britain still shops in pounds and ounces.
- Nearly everybody still thinks in Fahrenheit when talking about temperature.
- Their financial year is at the beginning of April.

The love of nature

- Love of the countryside is another aspect of British conservatism.
- an active interest in country matters
- gardening

The love of animals

- Rossendale Pet Cemetery in Lancashire is just one example of an animal graveyard in Britain.
- the status of pets is taken seriously.
- Wildlife programmes are by far the most popular kind of television documentary.
- Millions of families have 'bird-tables' in their gardens.
- There is even a special hospital (St Tiggywinkles) which treats injured wild animals.

Formality and informality

- It all depends on whether a person is playing a public role or a private role.
- Clothes - 'on duty' – formal
- Clothes - not playing a public role – informal
- Being friendly in Britain disregards formalities.
- not addressing someone by his or her title (Mr, Mrs, Professor etc),
- not dressing smartly when entertaining guests,
- not shaking hands when meeting and
- not saying 'please' when making a request.

The Changes

- Buffet-type meals are now a common form of hospitality.
- More groups in society now kiss when meeting each other (women and women, and men and women, but still never men and men!).